100 killed, 521 injured in riots over Miss World

Story in World, PAGE A11

Loren drops 'Leviste'

LAST Thursday, the Senate officially dropped "Leviste" from the official name of Sen. Loren Legarda at the request of the lady senator herself.

In an advisory to all Senate offices, Senate Secretary Oscar Yabes said: "(E)ffective immediately, the official name to be used by Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste in all communications, hearing and in plenary shall be Sen. Loren Legarda."

LOREN/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Royal dog spared the death penalty

DISCRIMINATION! KUNG TULAD KONG ASKAL YUN, DEDO NA YUN SIGURADO!

SLOUGH, England—Princess Anne became the first modern British royal with a criminal record Thursday when she confessed in court that one of her pet dogs had bit-

ROYAL/ A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, November 23, 2002 ★★ 74 pages / 7 sections / vol. 17 / no. 348 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Gov't wants Meralco

Lopez family 'shocked' at Palace proposal for 'takeover'

By Amando Doronila

THE MACAPAGAL administration has presented the Manila Electric Co. a draft memorandum of agreement seeking a sweeping state takeover and control of Meralco's board of directors, operations and management.

If implemented, the memorandum, dated Nov. 12, would enable the government to wrest control of the country's biggest utility company purchased by the Lopez family from its American owners, General Public Utilities, in 1961.

The memorandum was confirmed by both Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Oscar Lopez, head of the Lopez group of companies. The document, which had been kept secret by the administration, was obtained by the INQUIRER.

But Camacho said the draft was not a demand. It was an idea put to the Lopezes as a talking point. It was, Camacho said, "work in progress." The Lopezes were asked to comment on what they objected against in the memorandum.

The Lopezes did not see it as a talking point. Their reaction is that the government plan is nothing if not confiscatory carried out under the cover of democratic procedures.

The memorandum was faxed by Camacho to Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III, chair and chief executive officer of ABS-CBN, on Nov. 12, three days before the Supreme Court handed down a decision ordering Meralco to refund 3.8 million electricity consumers for what it called "excess" charges collected from 1994 to 1998. The refund is estimated at P28 billion.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER yesterday, Oscar Lopez said "We are shocked" by the proposal. He said the memorandum did not reflect previous discussions between Camacho and Lopez III on ways to "maintain the financial viability" of Meralco. Oscar Lopez said his group was preparing a response to the proposal.

What shocked the Lopezes were the provisions in the draft which state:

"The parties recognize and agree that effective control and supervision of the Board of Directors, management and operation of Meralco by the Republic of the Philippines is an essential component of restructuring.

"As such, the ROP and the Lopez Group agree that, for the term of this agreement, the ROP shall nominate six representatives to the Board of Direc-

GOV'T/ A20

Guingona leads loud protests vs MLSA

By Norman Bordadora and Cynthia D. Balana

A FIRESTORM of protest yesterday greeted the signing of the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), with Vice President Teofisto Guingona and a number of lawmakers demanding a congressional review.

Guingona warned that the agreement allowing the United States to use the Philippines as a supply center for its global anti-terror campaign could draw the country into a US-Iraq war. "We may not want the Filipino soldier to fight a foreign war in a foreign land for (an) objective not our own, but the MLSA calls for (reciprocity) in cooperative efforts . . . within or outside Philippine territory," he said at a news briefing.

Asked whether he believed that the five-year agreement was unconstitutional, Guingona said: "You tell me. The letter speaks for itself."

He said that the MLSA required Senate concurrence, and that the United States should not pass it off as a "boring" document. "(It) is far from a simple administrative and accounting agreement. It is a political and military agreement that should have been signed by higher officials," he pointed out.

Sen. Joker Arroyo raised the

GUINGONA/ A18

ERIK ARAZAS

NO WAY is the country going to be "Uncle Sam's vulcanizing shop," is the protesters retort to the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement during the rally of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya at Mendiola bridge on Friday where they clash with police.

'Liar,' Willie tells Nani

By Juliet L. Javellana and Volt Contreras

"LIAR," Rep. Willie Villarama yesterday called Justice Secretary Hernando Perez for allegedly denying an existing agreement with the Hong Kong government that could facilitate the investigation of a Coutts Bank account supposedly held by the "million-dollar man."

"I have produced the evidence that this guy is lying through his teeth," the Bulacan congressman said in a phone interview. He said the agreement on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters was signed on Feb. 3 by Perez himself.

"How come he denies there is an agreement that we can use to uncover the mystery?" Villarama said. "Is he hiding something?"

Villarama also denounced Presidential Anti-Graft chair Dario Rama and National Bureau of Investigation director Reynaldo Wycoco for laying on him the burden of proving that a Cabinet official had received a $2-million bribe.

"I have done my homework. I have identified the bank account that can be verified, I have cited the agreement that they can use," he declared, adding that it was now up to Rama and Wycoco to do their share.

Villarama said he preferred to cooperate with the Ombudsman, whose deputy Margarito Gervacio had earlier called for an investigation.

"Before Secretary Perez lied, I had trust in the NBI to make a thorough, impartial investigation. But now that their boss is the one involved, I don't know anymore," he said.

But Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo described Villarama's "million-dollar" exposé as "not yet ripe" for investigation.

As a "starting point" should his office launch an inquiry, Marcelo said he would formally ask Villarama for copies of what he had furnished the PAGC.

"I will write Willie and maybe also Rama next week and look at (the documents) first. You don't start an investigation based purely on news clippings," said the Ombudsman, who assumed his

LIAR/ A4

'Hush-hush' signing explained

By Martin P. Marfil and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TO DO AWAY with the expected debate was the reason the briefing for lawmakers on the RP-US Mutual Logistics Support Agreement was held only after it was signed early Thursday, according to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"It is an executive agreement," Reyes said Thursday night when asked by reporters about the belated briefing. "If we (brief Congress before the signing), it might trigger debates ... (The lawmakers) might also feel bad if their ideas will not be incorporated in the agreement. We don't want that to happen. Do the senators bring their bills to Malacañang before these are passed?"

Reyes also said the signing was kept

HUSH/ A18

Finally, justice for slain Gokongwei son-in-law

JUSTICE for Ignacio Earl Ong

TANAUAN CITY—Almost five years after he was killed in the crossfire between his kidnappers and his rescuers, the son-in-law of tycoon John Gokongwei finally got justice yesterday.

Saying the act of one was the act of all, a Batangas judge sentenced each of the four kidnappers of businessman Ignacio Earl Ong two death sentences, one for kidnapping and one for the theft of the victim's Mitsubishi Pajero.

Judge Voltaire Rosales of the Regional Trial Court said he gave weight to the testimony of the owner of the house in Nasugbu which was supposed to be used by the kidnappers to hide the victim.

Convicted in the celebrated case were Millano Muit, Sergio Pancho Jr., Rolando Dequillo and Romeo Pancho.

FINALLY/ A18

Peso slumps to 16-month low

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO slumped to a 16-month low yesterday, ending the day as the region's worst performer, as markets were worried that the widening budget deficit and lower growth forecasts could lead to a sovereign ratings downgrade.

Corporate demand for the US currency and short covering were also reported to be behind the peso's weakness.

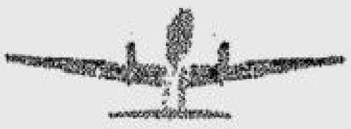
While most regional currencies appreciated following reports of an improving US economy, the peso closed at 53.825 to a dollar, its lowest since ending at 53.71 on July 16 last year.

The currency ended at 53.49 on Thursday.

Volume rose to $143.5 million from $126 million on Thursday.

The peso opened local trading at 53.535, then skidded to 53.85 in late trade, as markets fretted about a ratings downgrade.

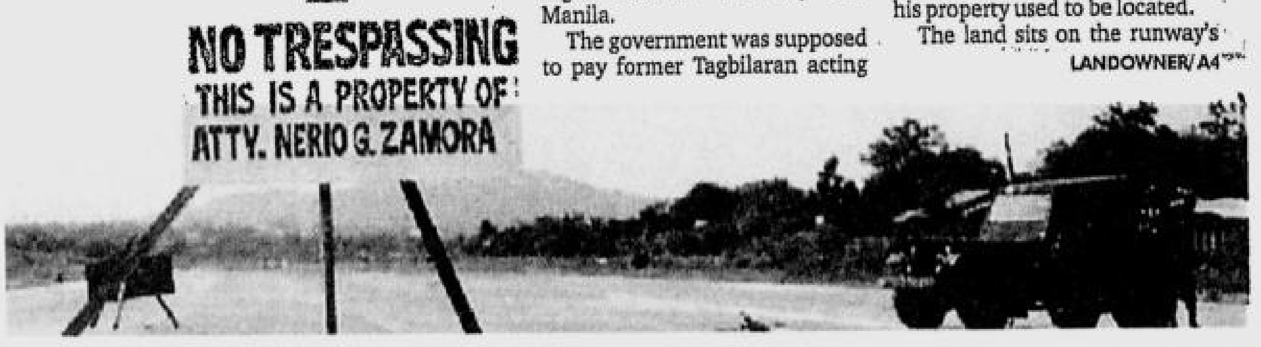
PESO/ A20



Landowner closes Bohol airport

NO PAY, no trespassing, says the barricade right smack on the runaway of Tagbilaran airport in Bohol put up by lawyer Nerio G. Zamora, who's been trying to collect for a whole year what DOTC owes him for his property used in the airport expansion.

CHITO FUENTES/ PDI VISAYAS BUREAU



By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Angered by the government's continued nonpayment of his land that was appropriated in the expansion of the Tagbilaran airport, a lawyer has fenced off a portion of the runway.

This forced Philippine Airlines to cancel its Boeing 737 daily flights between this city and Manila.

The government was supposed to pay former Tagbilaran acting Vice Mayor Nerio Zamora P675,500 for his 1,351-square-meter land not later than Dec. 31, 2001 but, Zamora said, he has not received "a single centavo from the government," prompting him to resort to drastic measures.

Zamora, a former chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG)-Bohol, put up a barrier made of wood and rope at 6 p.m. on Thursday on the area where his property used to be located.

The land sits on the runway's

LANDOWNER/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/23/02

RP gays back US lesbian couple

By Agnes E. Donato

THE PROGRESSIVE Organization of Gays in the Philippines (ProGay) yesterday trashed the Family Code for being "outdated" as it rallied support behind a lesbian couple from the United States who were denied a family visa to the Philippines.

"We sympathize with Ms Susan Trask Lamb and Ms Chantale Yok-Min Wong. It's really saddening that they should be treated like this here," ProGay president Oscar Atadero told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

Lamb and Wong, who is alternate director for the US in the Manila-based Asian Development Bank, are legally married under the laws of the state of Vermont in the United States.

Their application for a family visa was turned down after Justice Secretary Hernando Perez issued an opinion that under the Constitution the word "family" was used in the Family Code to mean "a stable heterosexual relationship."

Atadero said the Family Code, which was passed during the Aquino administration, should be replaced immediately because it no longer applied to the situation of most family units now.

"Because of the Family Code's limited definition of a 'family,' a significant portion of the population does not get to enjoy the benefits that should be extended to them," the ProGay leader said.

He explained that many family units now are composed of single parents and their child/children, grandparents and grandchildren, or gay and lesbian couples.

"Congress should immediately pass laws giving gays and lesbians access to all rights being enjoyed by heterosexuals, including the right to establish a family," he added.

Atadero also urged legislators to allow domestic partners whose marriage is recognized in other countries to establish a family here in the Philippines in accordance with the International Declaration of Human Rights.

Atadero said it was "high time that member governments who compose the ADB's policy-making board put in their corporate agenda an inclusive workplace benefit regime that will enhance the humanity of homosexual, bisexual and trans-gender employees working for ADB offices, suppliers and contractors."

"It behooves emerging Asian economies to start treating their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members as equal citizens," Atadero said.

But since it would take a while for Asian governments to remove gender-based discrimination from their laws, Atadero said the private sector should take the lead in extending employment benefits to sexual minorities.

He suggested that the ADB become a model employer by drafting comprehensive guidelines for the protection of the rights of its gay and lesbian staff.

ProGay, along with other gay groups from other countries, recently received an award from the Thailand-based Utopia Pride Group "for leading the fight for gay and lesbian rights in the Asia-Pacific region."

GMA on Meralco: No power play

By Dona Pazzibugan and Carlito Pablo

STEELING herself against a flood of criticism, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would do what she thinks is best to resolve the dilemma over the P28 billion in refunds that the Manila Electric Co. has been ordered to pay electricity consumers by the Supreme Court.

"I shall not be swayed by populist politics nor by power play," she said at the University of the Philippines College of Law Alumni Homecoming on Thursday night.

"I shall not please the poor by tearing down the rich nor please the rich by ignoring the poor because there is nothing more important to me than the future of this country, not even the elections of 2004," she said.

Politicians and militant groups have denounced the President for allegedly making the financial stability of Meralco her priority.

They said the government's duty was to ensure that consumers recover the excess charges that Meralco had been collecting since 1994.

Ms Macapagal reiterated her three-point policy on the Meralco issue:

- Ensure Meralco's financial viability by spearheading discussions for a rehabilitation plan "that is fair to creditors, investors and most of all the public."
- Ensure that the Supreme Court's final decision is implemented.
- Ensure that there will be no power disruption despite Meralco's financial problems.

"If indeed the final decision is a refund, it is my duty to see to it that one way or another you the consumers will get your refund," she said.

She downplayed fears that the high court's ruling would turn investors off the power sector at a time when the government is trying to privatize the National Power Corp.

"Let me add that the Supreme Court is the highest court in the land and nothing will aid our economy and democracy more than strong institutions of law," Ms Macapagal said.

She said she would not be "paralyzed" by the thought of the 2004 presidential election as she believes the "the presidential election for whomever is running presents a great opportunity to enact positive change, not paralyze the nation."

But it did not mean "that I am a candidate for president," she said.

"It means I am the President and will continue to focus on being President... I'll worry about the election when the time comes. But it is not now," she said.

MACAPAGAL: "I shall not please the poor by tearing down the rich nor please the rich by ignoring the poor."

Commenting on the slew of opinions on how the President should act on issues ranging from proposals to take over the Meralco to revamping her Cabinet, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President "doesn't need to be reminded on what needs to be done."

"The President knows what she's doing," Bunye said in his regular press briefing.

Bunye said that Ms Macapagal was "focused" on what she believed needed doing, which are jobs generation and the delivery of basic services like education and health.

Palace downplays US court ruling to grant Atong Ang bail

By C. Pablo and V. Contreras

MALACAÑANG yesterday said it did not consider a Las Vegas federal court decision to allow fugitive Charlie "Atong" Ang to post bail a setback for government efforts to have the Estrada crony extradited from the United States.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Las Vegas court in fact did "something quite unique" by imposing restrictive conditions for the bail of Ang, a co-accused of jailed ex-president Estrada in plunder charges before the Sandiganbayan.

Bunye said these included the electronic monitoring of Ang's whereabouts, the surrender of his passport and the requirement for him to prove that the $300,000 bail he would be posting came from legitimate sources.

"As far as we are concerned, this procedure is normal in the US," Bunye said.

Ang, who is the subject of an extradition request by the Philippine government, was arrested in November 2001.

"The Palace would like fugitives from justice to be extradited and we'll work toward that end," Bunye said.

Bunye declined to comment on a portion of the Las Vegas court order on Ang's bail, which noted that the case against him was based on the uncorroborated statement of a "corrupt official."

It was obvious the reference pertained to former Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, a former associate of both Estrada and Ang, who is the government's principal witness in the plunder case.

"We have not read the (court's) decision," Bunye said.

The lead prosecutor in the Estrada plunder trial yesterday maintained the government's case against the deposed president would not be weakened by the recent US court ruling on Ang.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said it "hardly mattered" that Ang was given this break since the Nevada judge "hearing Ang's extradition case never decided on the merits" of the charges that Ang was facing in the Sandiganbayan.

Moreover, the records presented in the extradition case were from the aborted Senate impeachment trial of Estrada and from the Sandiganbayan proceedings where more detailed presentation of the charges was made, he said.

Marcelo said it was for the justice department to decide whether to appeal the Nevada court ruling.

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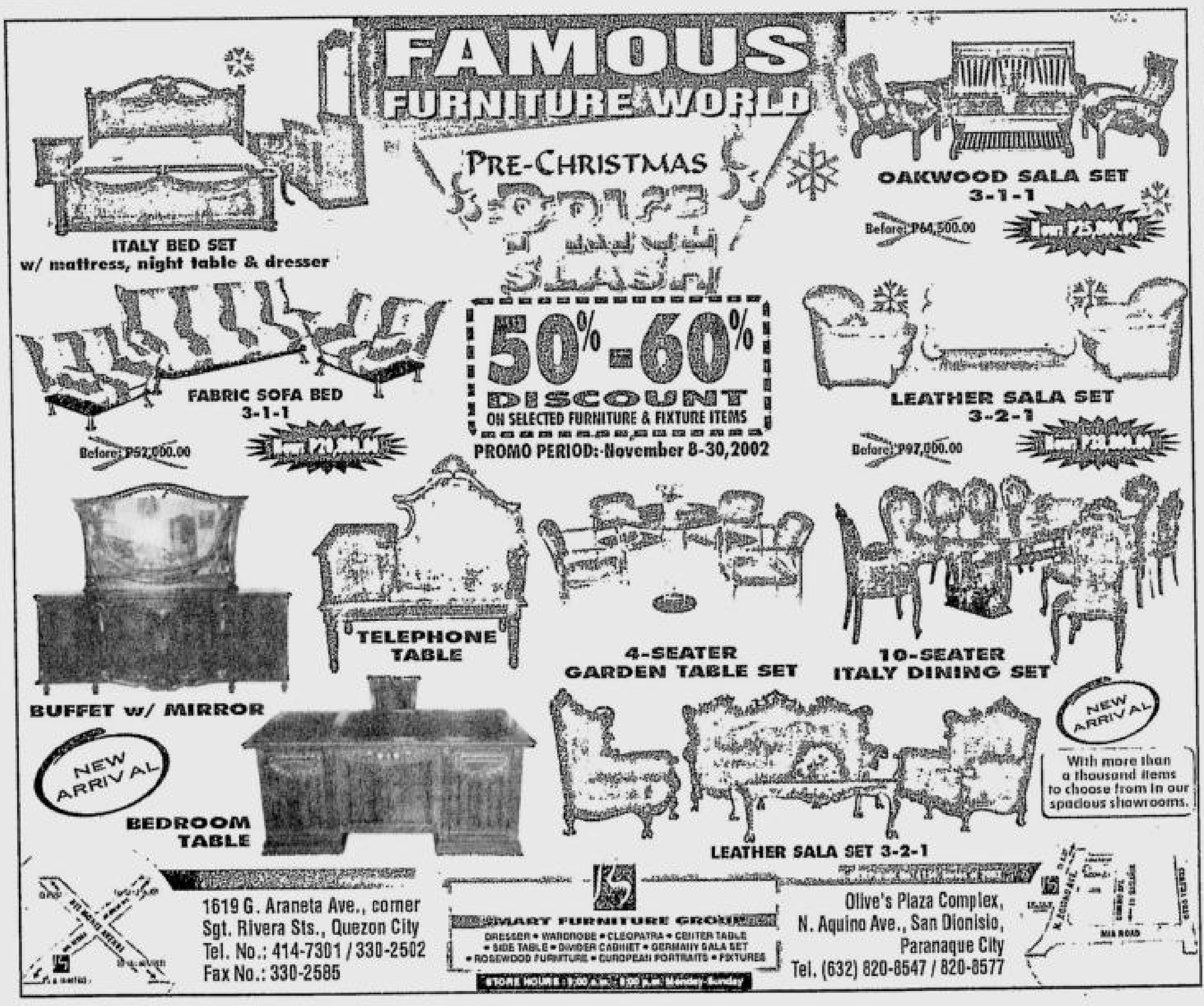

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Filipina hurt in latest Israel suicide attack

By Blanche S. Rivera

ANOTHER Filipino caregiver was injured in the most recent suicide bombing in Israel that left 11 persons dead.

Nancy Gallego, 37, was in the same bus that had exploded at 7:15 a.m. in Jerusalem, according to the Department of Labor and Employment. She was the fifth overseas Filipino worker injured in the spate of violence in country.

Gallego was among the 41 who were hurt in the explosion, but reports as of yesterday afternoon indicated that she was in stable condition in a Jerusalem hospital.

Doctors have already removed the shrapnels in her stomach and chest.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said Gallego, a stay-out caregiver, was on her way to work in a nursing home in Jerusalem when the tragedy happened.

Gallego takes the bus when she goes out every day to report to her job, which is not so far from where she lives. Gallego is with her sisters-in-law Cecille and Evelyn Gallego.

A widow from Digos, Davao Oriental, Gallego has been working in Israel for two years. Her husband, who was a seaman, was declared "lost at sea" seven years ago.

Sto. Tomas said the DOLE has already informed Gallego's 15-year-old daughter about the incident and has offered to repatriate Gallego if she decides to go home. But Evelyn has informed the DOLE that Gallego may opt to recuperate in Jerusalem.

Three OFWs—Rosalia Reyes, Rebecca Ruga and Adelina Cunanan—have been killed in bombings in the past 12 months.

Those injured in earlier explosions were Lily Basi, Mario Libao, Raul Vivas and his sister Maricar Vivas. All chose to remain in Israel.

All cops to go on full alert this Christmas

By TJ Burgonio

THREATS by the Abu Sayyaf to mount truck bombings in Metro Manila have prompted the national police to heighten security to thwart any terror attack during the Christmas season.

Yesterday, Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, the chief of the Directorial Staff, presided over a command conference of regional police operations chiefs and military officials in Camp Crame to map out anti-terror measures for the holiday season.

Gil said that the Philippine National Police would place all its 111,000 personnel on full alert before Dec. 15, noting that the threat from regional and local terrorist groups as well as from the communist insurgents "was continuing."

"Our concern now are the terrorist communist movement, and terrorists from other groups, particularly the Abu Sayyaf which has threatened to bomb certain facilities, installations, commercial areas," Gil added.

Abdulmukim Edris, alleged head of the Abu Sayyaf explosives team arrested last week, has bared a plot by the bandit group to mount attacks in the metropolis starting November, using electronically detonated truck bombs.

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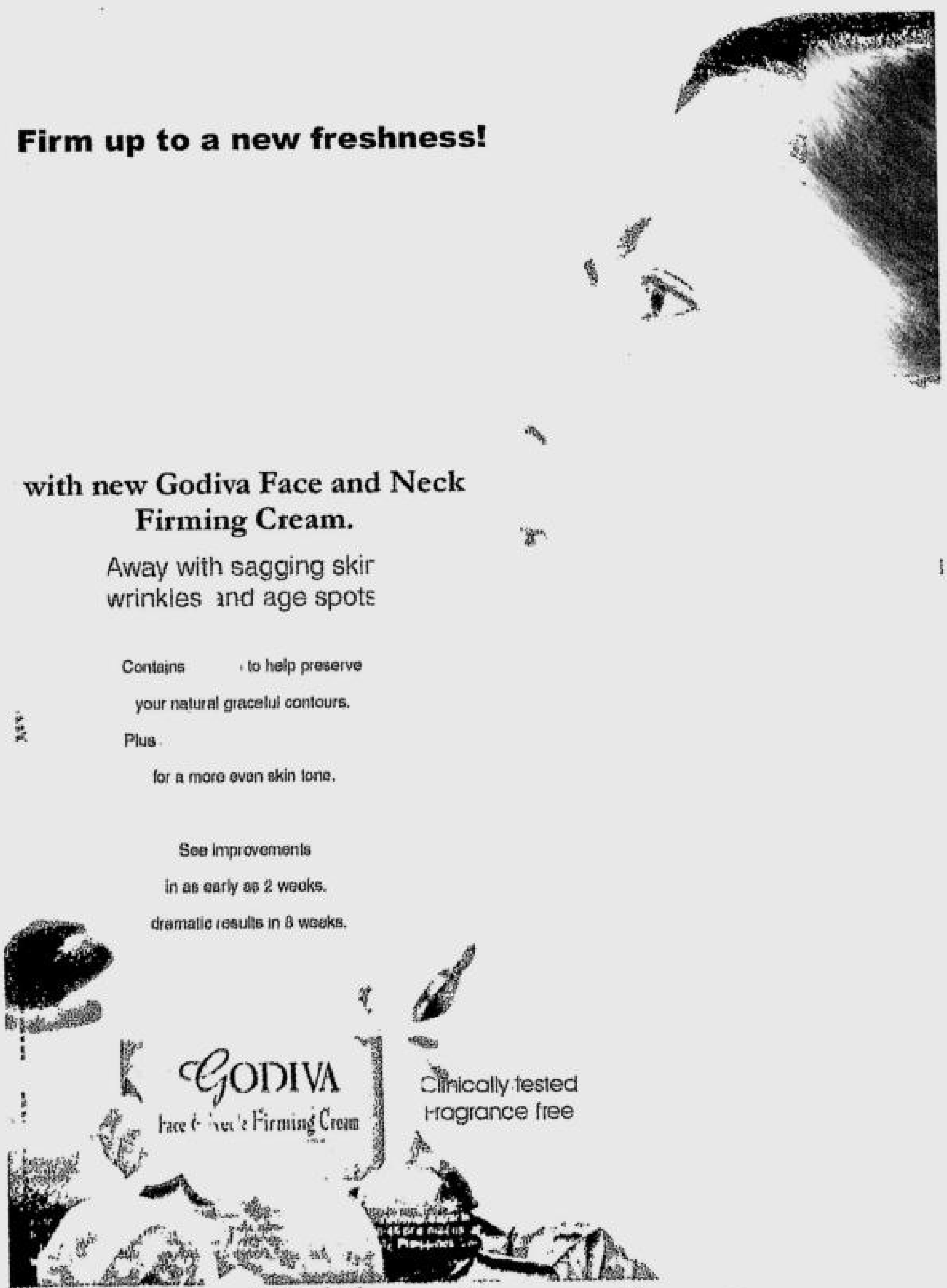

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'Liar,' Willie tellls Nani

From page A1

post only on Oct. 10 and spent his first few weeks consolidating the cases he had inherited from Aniano Desierto.

Marcelo gave this answer when asked whether his office would conduct motu propio (on its own initiative) an investigation into Villarama's charges against Perez.

He also indicated that such an inquiry, if launched, might have to wait considering the cases pending at his office.

"I'm not delaying it but *pila-pila lang* (first things first). I may be biting off more than I can chew," he said, adding that earlier major cases "might be left behind" if his office switched focus on anything "current."

Marcelo devoted this week, for example, to reviewing cases being heard at the Sandiganbayan in connection with the multibillion-peso tax credit scam and the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

Next week, he said, he would include Villarama's case among others he had scheduled for a progress check, like the Public Works vehicle repair scam and the alleged overprice of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard—both still undergoing preliminary investigation by his office.

Bribe giver

Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee said the supposed bribe giver should come forward and face an inquiry—and even imprisonment—the way "Jueteng-gate" whistle-blower Luis "Chavit" Singson did in 2000.

Teehankee, spokesperson for the Department of Justice, told reporters that the one who deposited the supposed $2 million in the Coutts Bank account should be brave enough to provide the specifics that Villarama had refused to divulge.

"It is important in any allegation of this nature, which is very serious, (tha) we know who is the alleged briber," he said. "Who is trying to bribe? Where will the money come from?"

According to Teehankee, a bribe giver who confesses "provides adequate proof against his interest as a wrongdoer."

"However, such a testimony will not be valid against the person he is attempting to bribe," Teehankee said, because Perez "will, of course, have the opportunity to rebut or provide denial."

Teehankee also said the NBI would exert all efforts to ascertain the bribe giver and to follow the money trail.

"That is why it is very important that we avoid the use of the media as a political tool," he said. "We believe that a sober approach to this allegation is very important. It is important that the NBI subpoena all documents. And it is important for Congressman Villarama to provide solid information, and not hearsay testimony."

But Villarama said he wanted to "withdraw" from the scene to see what the government would do about this corruption case.

To Rama's earlier demand for him to produce more evidence against Perez, he said: "I'm afraid of becoming an Acsa Ramirez." It was a reference to the Land Bank cashier who became a suspect in a tax diversion scam that she had exposed.

'Inggit'

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel insisted that the Senate look into the matter.

He said the Senate, being an independent body, must conduct its own inquiry based on the resolution filed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, and not on Villarama's expose.

It was Lacson who first named Perez as the Cabinet official who had received a $2-million bribe from the Argentine firm Impsa.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, had invoked inter-chamber courtesy in not acceding to a Senate investigation.

"The Senate must investigate the Lacson resolution, not the Villarama expose, or else it would be accused of trying to cover up," Pimentel stressed. "The House of Representatives has no cause for resentment, only for inggit (envy)."

Lacson, on the other hand, said he would not cooperate with the NBI or the PAGC.

On the NBI summons for him to produce documents, he said: "That's an exercise in futility. I would look like a fool considering that it's their boss who's involved."

Lacson also said whatever documents he was holding would be turned over to the Senate once it started its own inquiry.

He said his documents would show the complicated paper trail leading to the $2- million deposit in Coutts Bank.

The PAGC's Rama bewailed the pussyfooting of quarters supposedly in possession of the goods on Perez.

"How depressing! How frustrating!" he said, noting that Villarama, Lacson and Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez had all failed to respond to his commission's request for evidence on the alleged bribery.

"Why are they silent? What's the difference between talking in the media and signing an affidavit?" he said.

Jimenez, who is implicated in the supposed bribery, kept his silence on Villarama's expose but continued to call for Perez's resignation. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo*

Loren drops 'Leviste'

From page A1

Attached to the advisory was a Nov. 20 letter to Yabes from Legarda's chief of staff, Domingo Panganiban, saying that "upon instructions of our principal" (Legarda), the official name of the senator would be Sen. Loren Legarda.

There was no explanation why Legarda was dropping her married name.

Like Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, many female politicians drop their married names for political expediency and better name recall, especially if they had established themselves in their professions using their maiden names or are children of illustrious parents.

Legarda is being touted as a possible candidate in the 2004 presidential election. She established a name for herself as a broadcast journalist using the name Loren Legarda.

Legarda is married to former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste. They have two children—Lorenzo Antonio, 11, and Leandro Antonio, 8.

Last March, Legarda, then 42, suffered a miscarriage. She was then eight weeks pregnant with Leviste's child.

Landowner closes Bohol airport

From page A1

threshold portion, the spot where the Boeing 737's wheels land, according to Mokamad Kaderon, officer in charge of the Air Transportation Office in Tagbilaran.

Zamora said he will not remove the barricade "until I am paid or until restrained by proper authorities."

The putting up of the barricade resulted in the cancellation yesterday of PAL's 5:40 a.m. Manila-Tagbilaran flight as well as the 7:45 a.m. Tagbilaran-Manila flight.

Asian Spirit's smaller plane, a 60-seater YS11 plane that plies the 40-minute Cebu-Tagbilaran-Cebu route daily, could still land at the airport. The airline's office in Cebu said Zamora's barricade has not affected their daily flights to Tagbilaran. Most of its passengers are foreign tourists, mainly Koreans, who came to the country via the Mactan-Cebu International Airport.

The barricade's effect on the island's tourism still has to be quantified.

Tourism is one of Bohol's major earners. Tourists go to Bohol for diving, eco-tours (main attractions include the Chocolate Hills, the tarsier and the man-made forest) and to stay at the white-sand beaches of Panglao Island.

Only one still unpaid

"I will no longer talk with anybody," Zamora, who was interviewed in his residence in Taloto district, said in Cebuano.

Zamora said he was the only land owner who has not received payment for land used in the airport expansion project.

He recalled that during negotiations for the purchase of his property he was told that the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) would not pay more than P500 per square meter. To justify this, he said, the DOTC secured a zonal valuation from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) at P500 per square meter in the project area.

"Unfortunately for them, I had secured a zonal valuation certification from the BIR a year earlier placing the valuation at P800 per square meter," Zamora added.

He said that as a result of negotiations initiated by Gov. Erico Aumentado and a DOTC representative, he agreed to the price set by the DOTC which led to the completion of the project.

Much to his chagrin, however, the promised payment from the government did not come.

"I won't plead with them because this is my land," Zamora stressed.

He refused to entertain Aumentado's emissaries saying he has heard enough.

Instead, he said he will "plant Indian trees" on his land.

"(Aumentado) promised me that if I don't get paid by Dec. 31, 2001, he will be the one to take care of it," Zamora said in Cebuano.

He refused to be pacified by promises that the payment would be released in a week.

"If they could not pay me in more than a year, how much more in a week?" Zamora noted.

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LAND TITLES & DEEDS	• Dir. Ramon Cassanova
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 23, 2002
33rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Rev 11:4-12
Gospel:	Lk 20:27-40

Some Sadducees arrived. These people claim that there is no resurrection and they asked Jesus this question, "Master, in the Scripture Moses told us: 'If anyone dies leaving a wife but no children, his brother must take the wife, and the child to be born will be regarded as the child of the deceased man.' Now, there were seven brothers; the first married a wife, but he died without children; and the second and the third took the wife; in fact all seven died leaving no children. Last of all the woman died. On the day of the resurrection, to which of them will the woman be wife? For the seven had her as wife."

And Jesus replied, "Taking husband or wife is proper to people of this world, but for those who are considered worthy of the world to come and of resurrection from the dead, there is no more marriage. Besides, they cannot die for they are like the angels. They too are sons and daughters of God because they are born of the resurrection.

Yes, the dead will be raised, and even Moses implied it in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. For he is God of the living and not of the dead, and for him all are alive."

Some teachers of the Law then agreed with Jesus, "Master, you have spoken well." They didn't dare to ask him anything else.

Commentary

Is there life after death? Life after death preoccupied the Sadducees when they asked Jesus: "In the resurrection, whose wife will the woman be, since seven had married her?" Their basic premise is that resurrection is a continuation of this life and therefore needs propagation or else it will die. Christ's response is that in the life to come marriage is abolished and procreation ended. The woman no longer belongs to any man. Purely temporal categories and dichotomies are overcome. The different nature of the resurrected life is emphasized. "They cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection." Life comes from God. If there is life beyond death, it is God's gift to those who have accepted God's love and have lived the life of the beatitudes.

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2 kidnapped in Marawi City

ILIGAN CITY—Armed men struck anew in Marawi City seizing a government employee and his sister on Thursday.

The attack occurred almost three months after the kidnapping of four teachers of the Mindanao State University (MSU) also in Marawi.

Maj. Roberto Rada, commander of the Army's 36th Infantry Battalion, identified the victims as Nimrod Castillon, 30, who works at the Regional State Prosecutor's Office there, and his sister Julie.

Rada said the victims were on their way to this city when four gunmen stopped and "forcibly boarded" the Toyota Corolla driven by Nimrod.

The gunmen, with the two captives, fled toward Barangay Dimalon in Tagoloan, Lanao del Sur. A report said the kidnappers demanded P1 million in exchange for the freedom of the Castillons.

Rada said the military suspected some members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front were behind the abduction.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, denied the MILF was involved in the kidnapping. "It's always like that. They do not run out of theory," he said.

Jeffrey P. Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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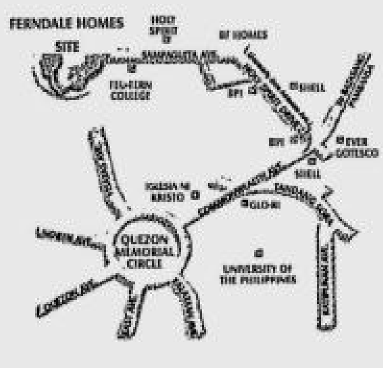

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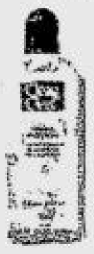

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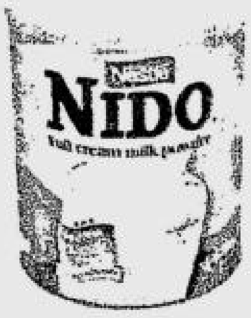

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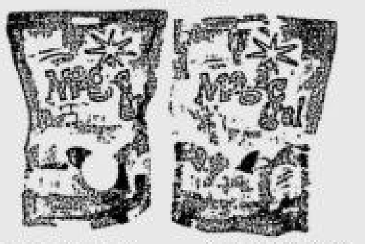

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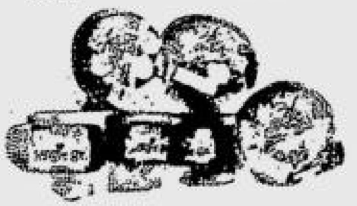

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Soldier, Abu gunman killed in Zambo clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A suspected Moro rebel and a soldier were killed in a clash here late Thursday, the military said yesterday.

Members of a military anti-terrorist task force conducting surveillance of a suspected safe house of the Abu Sayyaf group in Tumaga district were fired upon by 10 gunmen, said Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, chief of the military's Southern Command.

The troops fired back, triggering a five-minute gunbattle that also injured a soldier and another gunman, who was later captured, Abaya said.

The eight other gunmen escaped in the dark.

Soldiers recovered a pistol and rifle ammunition from the house.

Security has been tightened in this city after it was hit by a series of bombings blamed on the Abu Sayyaf that killed 12 people, including a US Green Beret, and injured nearly 200 others last month. *AP*

Europe to help RP fight terror

THE EUROPEAN Commission (EC) said Europe would help the Philippines boost its capabilities in the war against terrorism, according to a joint statement released Friday.

The commission—the EU's executive arm—also said after its senior officials met with Filipino counterparts here that it would help improve the image of the Philippines abroad and intercede on possible new visa restrictions on Filipinos.

EC officials told a joint press conference that they would be launching "new cooperation activities that will provide... technical and funding assistance to the Philippines' counter-terrorism effort.

"A team of experts is arriving to identify with Philippine counterparts, anti-terrorism measures for EC assistance," said Philippine foreign undersecretary Delia Albert and EC delegation chief Fokion Fotiadis.

The areas for cooperation may include anti-money laundering to catch terrorist funds and a strengthening of police, law-enforcement and border management, the two sides said.

The trainers would arrive next week, they said.

The delegation said it had built up considerable experience helping less developed countries boost their anti-terror capabilities through its cooperation programs with Eastern Europe.

The Europeans also said it would work to improve the image of the Philippines in Europe amid complaints that this Southeast Asian country is being unfairly depicted as unsafe.

The Philippine side raised the issue of new visa procedures which it believes unfairly restricts Filipinos due to anti-terror concerns, even though Manila is active in the war against terrorism.

Fotiadis promised to bring this up with European Commissioner Chris Patten and the European member states.

Both sides also said a dispute over high import tariffs slapped on Philippine tuna should be settled through the "mediation process under the auspices of the World Trade Organization."

The meeting also included discussions on European-assisted projects, particularly in the southern Philippines where Muslim rebel groups allegedly linked to the al-Qaida terror network are active.

In recent years Muslim guerrillas in the southern Philippines have kidnapped several foreigners including Europeans and held them for hefty ransom payments.

The United States has previously provided the Philippines with assistance in fighting Muslim terror groups, deploying US soldiers in the south to help track down the kidnappers. *AFP*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—General rule regarding character or reputation of a party in a controversy—The rule is that the character or reputation of a party is regarded as legally irrelevant in determining a controversy, so that evidence relating thereto is not admissible. Ordinarily, if the issues in the case were allowed to be influenced by evidence of the character or reputation of the parties, the trial would be apt to have the aspects of a popularity contents rather than a factual inquiry into the merits of the case. After all, the business of the court is to try the case, and not the man; and a very bad man may have a righteous cause. There are exceptions to this rule however and Section 51, Rule 130 gives the exceptions in both criminal and civil cases. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Puno, People v. Lee, G. R. No. 139070, May 29, 2002]

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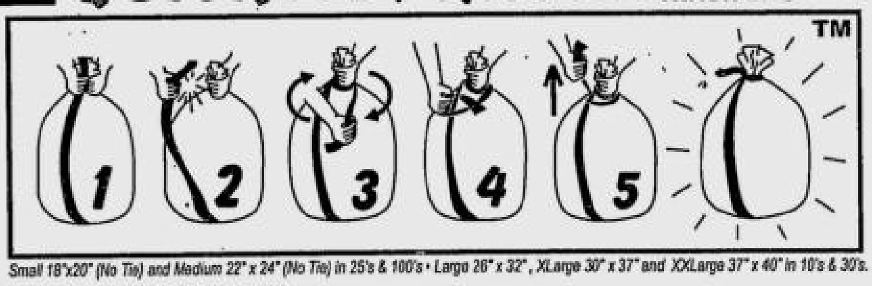

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Smuggling raps filed vs oil firm

By Michael Lim Ubac

CUSTOMS Commissioner Antonio Bernardo yesterday filed criminal charges with the Department of Justice against a petroleum company for allegedly smuggling 89,784 barrels of gas oil into the country in December last year.

Bernardo told Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño that "officials of Oilink deprived the government of P26,325,399 in duties and taxes."

But the actual loss to the government could reach P200 million because the penalty for "fraudulently importing" or smuggling oil amounts to eight times the basic duties, according to Bernardo.

He asked the DOJ, through Zuño, to indict the directors and officers of Oilink for violating Section 3601 and 3602 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

Besides Oilink (also known as Unioil according to Sen. Robert Barbers), Bernardo implicated the Marine Inspection and Testing Services (MITS), a shipping agency, TMC Navigation Inc. (TMC), a marine surveying company, and the shipmaster of the foreign-registered vessel, MT Selendang Gemala.

Named respondents in the charge sheet were Oilink officials Paul Co (chair), Ester Magleo (president), Sally Co, Wilfrido Co, Lucila Co (directors), Lisa Rosario Magaway (corporate affairs), Brian Yap (trading manager), Jun Rayos (operations manager) and Johnny Tan (terminal supervisor).

Also implicated were Manuel Tan (MITS manager), Rodrigo Aromin (MITS surveyor), Renato Tiamson (TMC Navigation manager), Isagani Villanca of the supercargo hired by TMC Navigation, and Capt. Ajay Kumar Palayi, shipmaster of the Malaysian ship MT Selendang Gemala.

Bernardo also announced during the filing yesterday at the DOJ that he would file an administrative case against Balanga City Judge Benjamin Viamson for issuing an injunction order restraining the BOC from further investigating Oilink.

The criminal complaint was filed by Bernardo upon the recommendation of customs officials Errol Albano, Filemon Mendoza and James Enriquez.

Zuño yesterday created a panel to investigate the complaint and resolve it as soon as possible.

The BOC said that the oil smuggling was unearthed while investigating reports of smuggling of petroleum products at the sub-port of Mariveles, Bataan.

"The team discovered that the officers of Oilink, in cooperation with other respondents smuggled 89,784 barrels of gas oil into the country," said Bernardo.

Evidence gathered by the BOC showed that the Oilink allegedly used a dummy firm to commit the fraud.

The smuggled oil was transported by MT Selendang Gemala and arrived in Mariveles, Bataan, on Dec. 1, 2001.

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Senator seeks probe of P7-B ROW claims

By Rocky Nazareno

AFTER the multimillion-peso "vehicle repair scam," the Department of Public Works and Highways may find itself deep in another controversy involving P7 billion of allegedly irregular right-of-way (ROW) claims.

Sen. Ramon Revilla yesterday demanded an investigation into ROW claims that he said "have suspiciously ballooned to P7 billion in the past three years" compared to the P500 million recorded from 1997 to 1999.

"Surprisingly, this figure virtually exploded in 2000 to 2002 with yearly totals breaching the billion-peso mark," Revilla, who chairs the Senae committee on public works, said in a statement.

Revilla has filed Senate Resolution 440 seeking to investigate this latest scam at the DPWH which comes on the heels of another anomaly involving ghost repairs and replacement of spare parts of DPWH service vehicles.

ROW claims are made by owners of private property which is acquired by the government for the construction of a public road.

According to Revilla, the questionable rise in ROW claims in the past two years was exposed by concerned DPWH employees and officials in the internet.

They claimed that a syndicate composed of officials of the DPWH, including the provincial engineer's office, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, provincial assessor's office, the Register of Deeds and provincial treasurer's office is involved in the manufacture of fake ROW claims.

"The syndicate is also involved in the subsequent certification proving the 'truthfulness' of these claims even when they are based on spurious documents," Revilla said.

He added that the syndicate was also involved in extortion, with holders of legitimate claims being threatened with disapproval of their claims if they do not fork out 50 percent of the total amount of the ROW claim.

"This is in addition to the P50,000 'processing fee' that they charge," Revilla said.

According to the concerned DPWH employees, in Region 12 alone (covering the provinces of Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur, Davao City, Cotabato and Surigao del Sur), ROW claims reached a ridiculous 600 when the properties allegedly traversed by DPWH infrastructure projects were owned by only a few landowners.

"The anomaly doesn't end there," Revilla said.

Revilla said a large portion of ROW claims was for properties in Region 12, with 78 percent of the total ROW claims equivalent to P5.537 billion having been posted there for the past two years.

"The same region also took the lion's share of ROW payments totaling P244 million," he said.

NEWSBRIEFS

Korean held in drug bust

AGENTS of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested a South Korean man in a drug raid at his apartment in Pasig City on Wednesday. Tae Won Hong, 45, of Seoul, could face the death penalty if he is convicted of owning one kilogram of shabu. He allegedly tried to evade arrest by passing himself off as a confidential agent of the National Bureau of Investigation and bribing the agents. He was charged with violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, usurpation of authority and corruption of public officer. He was denied bail, said Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, CIDG director.

Co-ops, SMEs trade fair

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is urging cooperatives and small businesses to capture the year-end market of corporate buyers and Christmas shoppers through the 3rd Cooperatives and SMEs Trade Fair at the Philippine Trade Training Center. The trade fair, which runs from Nov. 21 to 24, is aimed at making cooperatives and SMEs competitive at the national level. Trade Undersecretary for Industry and Investment Gregory L. Domingo said the DTI fair provides opportunities for small businesses to expand their network of suppliers and buyers while enhancing their entrepreneurial and managerial skills.

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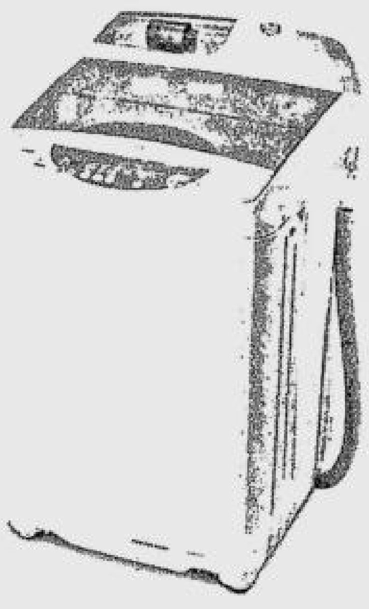

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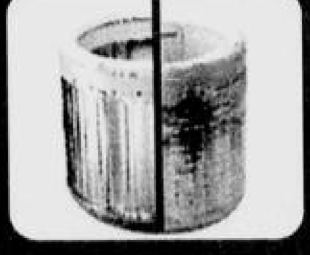

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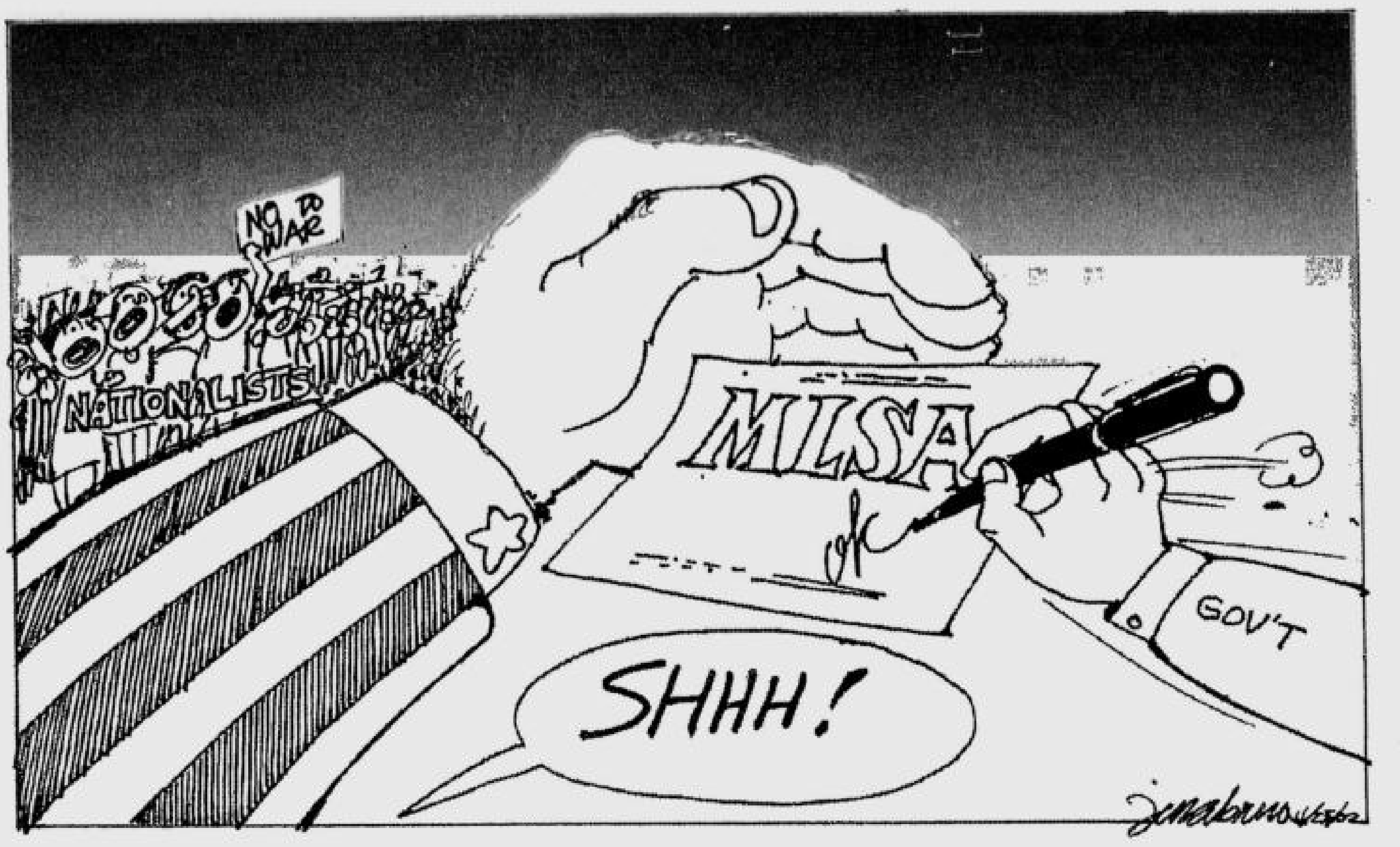

Mainly administrative

EDITORIAL

AFTER NEARLY a year of negotiations, the Philippines and the United States signed on Thursday the Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement (MLSA) designed to facilitate the exchange of military supplies during joint war games. Copies of the agreement were supplied the press during the signing.

The US Embassy and Philippine defense officials, in an effort to allay fears that the agreement would pave the way for permanent basing of US military facilities in the Philippines, emphasized the point that the MLSA is "nothing but a set of administrative procedures to facilitate the exchange of supplies during approved activities like joint military exercises under the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Visiting Forces Agreement."

To underline this point, the agreement was signed by non-plenipotentiary level officials—armed forces deputy chief of staff, Commodore Ernesto de Leon and US Army Col. Mathias Velasco in Camp Aguinaldo. By treating the accord as administrative in nature, the government sought to avoid submitting it to the Senate for ratification. A process that would complicate it and face the risk of rejection.

Most likely, the accord is not going to the Senate. Two other issues have been raised. The first is that because of the duration of the accord (five years) and the frequency of the ever-expanding scope of the joint exercises, now designed to advance the capability of both nations to fight international terrorism, the stationing of US forces and their "temporary" storage structures could indeed be permanent. The second issue is that because of the exercises and facilities established here in support of this activity, the Philippines could be a target of terrorist attack.

Under the agreement, "support and services" which may be provided by the accord, are defined to include "temporary structures incident to operations support" and "storage units and ports," which "shall at all times remain under the control and supervision of the host state." The accord is explicit in saying that no US military base, facility, or permanent structure "shall be constructed, established, or allowed" under the agreement. In agreeing to this provision, the Philippines does not lose the right to monitor US troop and facility deployment and seek the abrogation of the pact in the event of violations.

As to the risk of armed retaliation over our engagement with the United States in exercises designed to advance the campaign against terrorism, American authorities argue that 59 other countries have similar agreements with the United States, and so the Philippines cannot be singled out for retaliation. The risks faced by the Philippines are, however, linked to the fact that terrorist cells identified with al-Qaida have been identified in the country, and the recent joint exercises in southern Philippines were intended to crush the Abu Sayyaf terrorist organization. The question therefore is whether the exercises have enhanced the ability of the Philippine military to send the Abu Sayyaf on the run.

To make the agreement palatable to public opinion, in view of nationalist opposition, the final document was watered down by erasing an earlier provision saying that one of the parties may ask for logistical support "in times of peace...during operations and deployments outside the purview" of the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty.

The prospects of reestablishing permanent bases or of considering the agreement as a form of basing should, however, be viewed from the current strategic concept that permanent bases are no longer necessary to ensure the security interests of either the United States or the Philippines. Bases are expensive to maintain, are politically sensitive and inflexible to ensure rapid deployment of forces in international emergencies. This is the age of mobile deployment of forward bases underpinned by aircraft carrier strike forces.

The main criteria by which the MLSA has to be considered are whether such accords can enhance the military capability of the Philippines to cope with security threats, whatever form they may take, while allowing temporary hosting of logistics, supplies and facilities.

More delay in the Lacson case

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I RECEIVED a swift reaction from Sen. Loren Legarda to my column of Nov. 9, where I twitted her for not placing on the agenda of the Senate the report of its three committees that investigated the charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Her reason, as I understood it, was that it was a very controversial and emotional issue that might spark division in the chamber.

That criticism was based on a newspaper report (not in the INQUIRER) that she emphatically denied in her letter she sent me by special messenger on Nov. 12. She said:

"I take exception to the remarks which were attributed to me saying that I hesitated to place C.R. 66 on the agenda on grounds that it involved controversial and emotional issues that are likely to spark division in the chamber. I categorically deny having said these statements."

According to her, during the plenary session of the Senate on July 31, 2002, the Barber's Committee Report numbered 66 was referred to the Senate's calendar for ordinary business, "which is the initial procedure prior to its referral to the calendar for special orders leading to a floor discussion of any measure."

"Immediately after its referral to the calendar for ordinary business, Sen. Panfilo Lacson stood to raise a parliamentary inquiry questioning the referral of Committee Report No. 66 to the subject calendar. He called attention to his own observation that while the majority of the members of the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs had indeed signed C.R. No. 66, the secondary committee which reported the same, National Defense and Security, failed to muster the majority of the members into signing the same report.

"The chairman of the primary committee who reported C.R. 66, Sen. Robert Barbers, after consulting with Senator Lacson, then agreed to withdraw the same from the calendar pending an inquiry into the alleged failure to muster majority signatures from the concerned chairman of the secondary committee. Pursuant to their agreement, I moved to withdraw the same from the calendar taking into consideration the pendency of the same inquiry. I am thus awaiting the concerned chairmen to comment on the Lacson parliamentary inquiry before we proceed with the report's referral to the calendar."

In other words, more delay. If I recall correctly, the investigation of Lacson began last year even before he was elected to the Senate. The hearings riveted public attention until they were abruptly canceled on Sept. 5, 2001, on the ground that the committees had received enough evidence to reach their decision. (One other reason could be that the Senate was going on recess and some of its members were going on the usual junkets.)

Last December, Sen. Joker P. Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, one of the three committees that investigated the charges against Lacson, assured me that their report would be ready by mid-January. That deadline came and went without the promised report. On June 6 this year, the final report of the three committees, voting 7-5, 10-10, and 10-9, was submitted to the Senate. However, plenary debate on the vital issue was blocked by the erstwhile opposition that had wrested temporary control of the Senate with the defection of Sen. John Osmeña from the majority.

The Drilon camp is now the majority again, but as explained by Senator Legarda, who chairs the Rules Committee that determines the order of business in the Senate, plenary debate on C.R. No. 66 will again have to be postponed pending resolution of the parliamentary question raised by Senator Lacson. The senator is obviously not in a hurry to hear the verdict of the Senate on the charges against him. Neither, it seems, is Senator Barbers, who might have insisted that the point raised by Lacson be debated during the plenary consideration of the report.

I believe that a valid decision has been reached by the three investigating committees under the familiar rule of the majority as an underlying principle of democratic governments. Of the three committees that investigated Lacson, two voted against him, while the third voted 10-10, for a tie. It cannot even be said that the vote of the three committees was two for Lacson's discipline and one against, because the 10-10 vote of the other committee was a tie. Where two are in favor and the third vote is a tie (and not even against), the majority vote should prevail.

The referral of Lacson's parliamentary inquiry to Barbers is likely to further delay the plenary debate on C.R. No. 66, perhaps forever. The senators may say they have more pressing things to discuss like the national budget and the absentee voting bill, which deserve their prior attention. So why did they decide to investigate the charges against Lacson in the first place? There will always be more important matters to resolve than the fate of their tarnished colleague.

A school for terrorists

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jalil Hamid

ULU TIRAM, Malaysia—For the villagers who lived nearby, the parents and children at the Luqmanul Hakiem religious school were outsiders. Some came from neighboring Singapore and Indonesia, others from elsewhere in Malaysia. They all had one thing in common: a desire to follow a purer form of Islam. But some, say police, shared something more: they took a secret oath of allegiance to Jemaah Islamiah, the shadowy militant network blamed for the Bali bomb blasts.

"I suspected something was not right at that school," village headman Saad Shamin commented in Sungai Redan, his *kampung* or village on the other side of a hill from the school in the southern Malaysian state of Johor. The madrassah, or school, was shut down after a police raid in January.

Villagers who work in the nearby plantations and factories have been agog at the mention of one familiar name after another in media reports of Southeast Asia's war on terror. Police investigating the Bali bombings, which killed over 180 people, most of them Western tourists, say three of the six Indonesian suspects had a link with the school. The villagers say people from the school, which was also just a few kilometers from one of Malaysia's biggest army camps, didn't mix much.

"I didn't suspect anything, they were just boys coming in here to get their sweets after Friday prayers. It was all very innocent," said Mohamad Rosman, the village shopkeeper.

"In hindsight, I should have been suspicious because I noticed the way they prayed was a bit foreign, but it came as a shock when I read in the papers about the teachers' arrest," he said, referring to detentions after the school was closed.

The villagers recall people as being polite and devout. The headman saw it as a school fostering anti-government sentiment, not militants dreaming of an Islamic state across the region.

Set at the end of an isolated road through a palm oil estate, the school was established a decade ago by Indonesian preacher Abdullah Sungkar, the man police credit with secretly founding and leading Jemaah Islamiah until his death in 1999. Police say Abu Bakar Bashir took over the leadership of the network. Bashir, who is under arrest in Jakarta for conspiracy to bomb churches and assassinate President Megawati Sukarnoputri before she took power last year, denies any link with the network or any wrongdoing of any kind.

Both Abdullah and Bashir fled to Malaysia in the mid-1980s to escape then Indonesian President Suharto's police after being linked with unrest in central Java. They returned home after the dictator's fall in 1998.

During their Malaysian years, police say Abdullah based himself in Johor, and Bashir preached around Klang, a west coast port less than an hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur. With a million or more migrant Indonesians on Malaysia's west coast, the preachers found a small dedicated following.

At its peak in the mid-1990s, villagers say there were 500 pupils attending the Luqmanul Hakiem madrassah. Today, there are only lizards and insects in the dormitories of the young boys and girls. The school gates are padlocked. No one prays at the mosque.

When Singapore announced it had cracked a cell planning attacks on US targets last December, police learned that a number of its members sent their children to the school just across the causeway. Police swooped days later, arresting the principal, among others, but they say several suspected Jemaah Islamiah operatives had already skipped the country.

Villagers remember one man, named Amrozi, visiting the school where his brother Mukhlas was a preacher. Amrozi is now under arrest in Indonesia for the Bali attack.

"We called him Rozi," said one of the few villagers to have attended the school. "His brother was a very quiet man, very patient and polite, a good teacher. He held Malaysian identity papers and married a Malay girl."

Locals also recall seeing the chubby-faced suspect called Idris, who police say studied there too.

There are conflicting reports whether Imam Samudra, one of the suspected planners of the Bali attack, was in Johor. Malaysian police know he was active in Klang.

Hambali, the man police describe as the main link between the Southeast Asian group and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, was also in and around Klang, when he wasn't visiting Pakistan and Afghanistan.

While all the Bali suspects are Indonesian, Malaysian police are hunting several local militants, and they half expect one of their own nationals to be cited in the Bali probe.

Academics from a nearby university feature on wanted lists and police say at least one is a skilled bomb maker who has toured the conflict zones of Afghanistan and southern Philippines.

Police say the head of the Johor cell, Wan Win Wan Mat, was a local co-founder of the school. They arrested him returning from southern Thailand in late September.

"The school was where most Jemaah Islamiah elements in Johor congregated," a senior officer with the Malaysian security forces told Reuters, saying not everyone at the school was hard core.

All were drawn by the Indonesian preachers' promise of a purer form of Islam, but the officer said only some took the secret oath of allegiance to the Jemaah Islamiah.

Investigations suggest the school aimed to provide a community apart, where pupils were instructed in the *salaf*, the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed and his companions in the early centuries of Islam. Strict followers of these teachings regard everything that came after as deviant.

That poor, ill-educated men should be recruited as foot soldiers came as no surprise, but revelations that academics, men of science, and businessmen were won over took Malaysians aback.

Reuters

Lacson: from target to 'presidentiable'?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is being criticized by presidential aspirant Raul Roco for having hosted a "secret" dinner in the Palace to which she invited the top officials of beleaguered Meralco. Roco opines that in so doing GMA may have compromised the government's position vis-à-vis the power utility firm especially in the light of the recent Supreme Court order for a refund of consumers for excess billings.

I don't look at that meeting in that light. For one, as presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao disclosed the details of the meeting, it seemed merely exploratory in nature—a talking things-over to see what solutions could be taken. The government cannot sit idly by in the face of a financial crisis affecting Meralco as the former owns 25 percent of its shares. Besides, what happens to it could severely affect the economy and public interest. There have been several instances in the past when government leaders met with representatives of beleaguered private firms—in recent times I can recall President Estrada taking a more direct hand, in fact, in the labor problem involving PAL. Certainly, however, sitting down with its officials should not mean going soft on the firm's liabilities.

* * *

What I find hard to understand is why the opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 3, rescheduled two weeks ago for Dec. 15 from the original opening of Nov. 26, now has to be deferred by another six months, to April or May of next year, for "security reasons." The inference is that this spanking new airport is unsafe. This is funny, considering that Naia 3 is a state-of-the-art terminal featuring the latest German-designed airport technology that's at par with those in other airports abroad. If in the government's judgment the rickety old Naia 1 is "safe" enough, it's ridiculous to think Naia 3 would be unsafe. Then too, what's so unsafe about this brand-new airport that can't be repaired in six months? Why would it take so long to render it "safe?"

* * *

The safety angle is the latest monkey-wrench thrown by the government's technocrats across the path of Naia 3. This reminds me very much of the *kotong* policeman out to extort coffee money from the poor taxicab driver—he's bound to look for some excuse every time. It also brings to mind the threat supposedly hurled by a prominent tycoon who was part of the firm that lost out to the Chengs in the bid to build that airport some years back. In front of a number of people at a gathering soon after the bidding was finished, so goes the report, the tycoon was heard telling the Chengs that they will never get to open that airport. It now seems that this is the plan, but why is Malacañang going with it?

* * *

By now it's obvious that Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama has nothing on Justice Secretary Hernando Perez beyond one or two bank documents that don't even have the name of the supposed account owner, just an unverified account number. Villarama has admitted to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission that what he has is "unverified information coming from reliable sources," but how can info be "reliable" when it is "unverified"? Finally, after hemming and hawing, he points to Perez as the "million-dollar man" but he does not come across with the goods. But the bigger wonder is why, despite the lack of evidence, the media continue to give him the headlines.

* * *

That Sen. Panfilo Lacson would throw his hat into the presidential race is another one of those unceasing wonders in this country; how he can consider himself "presidentiable" given all the revelations in the Senate joint committee hearings about his as well as his former officers' alleged involvement in drugs and kidnapping defies the imagination. The Senate hearings paraded a slew of witnesses who testified against Lacson's men, and one or two of them made under oath most grievous testimonies deemed by the senators as enough to pin their colleague down on charges in the courts. Yet, at this point, people are counting him in the race and assessing his chances to win in 2004! Incredible.

* * *

The prevailing thinking is that Lacson decided to come out in the open about his ambition in anticipation of what could be an adverse decision of the SC on the DOJ's motion for reconsideration on the Kuratong Baleleng case implicating him. Recall that the SC earlier remanded the case to the regional trial court for evaluation on a possible reopening. Should the SC now rule definitively that this case can be reopened and Lacson is ordered arrested, he can now say he's being persecuted by the Palace.

* * *

Despite the charges, Lacson seems bent on edging out his colleague, Sen. Edgardo Angara from the LDP presidential nomination, and from what I gather, he has more than enough resources to run. He is said to be busy shopping for radio stations to buy and organizing support. A foundation called "714" (does it stand for PMA class '71 for 2004?) is busy recruiting a pyramid-like membership nationwide for Lacson—each recruit has to submit 10 new names. His campaign line is that he will restore peace and order, though critics allege that some of the hold-ups and robberies could have been instigated by expolicemen themselves, with possible links to his group. Among overseas Filipinos, his line that gets him the claps is that he will have all the illegal recruiters arrested and killed. He has also continued addressing the material needs of the various police forces.

Lacson's confessed predilection toward the authoritarian models in Asia, as typified by Lee Kuan Yew in his time and Malaysia's Mahathir, will make his chief rival in the opposition, Senator Angara, look even more phlegmatic and colorless. Angara has a political organization and resources that could match Lacson's, but his personality pales in comparison to the colorful former police chief.

Soap operas and social change

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THOSE who belittle the importance and impact of soap operas, or sneer at their potential for social change, should hear about how soaps changed the social landscape in other countries.

In Mexico, the "home" of the *telenovela*, family planning soap operas produced by the broadcast network Televisa are said to have made "the single most powerful contribution to the Mexican population success story."

This is due mainly to the pioneering work of Miguel Sabido, who in 1977 as the vice president of Televisa, created the first soap opera to promote family planning, called "Acompaname (Accompany Me)." "Acompaname" established the benchmarks that Sabido would later turn into a successful methodology, including the creation of characters who evolve over time to become positive role models for the audience, and the use of drama to illustrate the personal benefits of a social good, be it family planning, healthy practices or environmental protection.

In the nine months that "Acompaname" was on the air, the National Population Council reported that phone calls requesting family planning information increased from zero to an average of 500 a month. It was noted that many of the callers said they had been encouraged to do so by "Acompaname." More than 2,000 women also registered as family planning volunteers, an idea suggested in the TV soap opera. More important, contraceptive sales increased 23 percent in one year, compared to a 7 percent increase the preceding year; and more than 560,000 women enrolled in family planning clinics, an increase of 33 percent, compared to a one percent decrease in the previous year.

Following the success of "Acompaname," five other family planning soap operas were developed by Sabido, and in that time, from 1977 to 1986, Mexico experienced a 34 percent decline in its population growth rate. As an observer noted: "Throughout Mexico, wherever one travels, when people are asked where they heard about family planning, or what made them decide to practice family planning, the response is universally attributed to one of the soap operas that Televisa has done..."

* * *

EVEN more dramatic results, because they were tracked according to rigorous scientific standards and were evaluated extensively, come from Tanzania. From 1993 to 1997, Radio Tanzania broadcast a serial melodrama, "Twenda na Wakati (Let's Go with the Times)." The radio soap centered on the lives of two couples: Mkwaju and his wife Tunu; and Fundi Mitindo and Mama Waridi. Mkwaju is what's known as a "negative character," a wife batterer and philanderer, "an alcoholic who steals to support his many girlfriends and loses his job, his wife, and ultimately his life when he contracts HIV/AIDS." Fundi and Mama Waridi provide positive role models, communicating openly with each other, arriving at decisions jointly, and adopting family planning. A "transitional character," meaning one who changes in the course of the serial, is Tunu, who is introduced as the docile battered wife of Mkwaju and who eventually learns to carve out a life for herself.

* * *

BILL Ryerson, founder and president of the Population Media Center (PMC) which helped develop "Twenda na Wakati," says that at the start Mkwaju was embraced as a role model of Tanzanian manhood, especially by male listeners, who perceived him as embodying the most admired masculine qualities of sexual prowess and daring. But as the consequences of his negative behavior became apparent, "male listeners began to recognize the negative impact of his behavior."

During the four years that the soap aired, public attitudes about the role of women also shifted. As Tunu came into her own, listeners said their own attitudes about women were changing, too, believing that women had the right to protect themselves from abusive husbands and to seek their own happiness.

"Twenda" was extremely popular, attracting 58 percent of the population. By design, one region in Tanzania did not get the soap, with music being played during the same time slot during the first two years that "Twenda" aired. Then, in the next two years, "Twenda" began airing in the control region.

Independent research measured the effects of the program with regard to such issues as AIDS prevention behavior, the ideal age of marriage for women, and the use of family planning. Findings showed not just a significant increase in the level of information about HIV/AIDS, but also an increase in the belief that individuals could act to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission. There was also a significant increase in public opinion supporting family planning.

* * *

RESEARCH also showed that "Twenda" was able to effect important behavioral changes among listeners. Of those surveyed, 82 percent said the radio soap had convinced them to limit the number of their sex partners and to use condoms to avoid HIV infection. In fact, there was a 153 percent increase in condom distribution in the broadcast area during the first year, compared to only 16 percent in the region where it was not broadcast.

The number of women deciding to use contraception increased by 10 percent in the first two years of the program, while it stayed flat in the control area. Then, when the program was broadcast in this area, the contraceptive prevalence rate increased by 16 percentage points. A government survey showed that 41 percent of new adopters of family planning said they were influenced by "Twenda."

Indeed, there's more to soap operas than entertainment, and in seeking to educate the public, soap operas don't even have to—and should not—stop entertaining the audience.

Thoughts of the young

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

LAST week I had the honor of judging an oratorical contest among young students at the University of Santo Tomas. I deliberately use the word "honor" because listening to young people was a special treat as it revealed their expectations, their lack of cynicism, unlike their jaded elders, many of whom have lost hope in this country.

The Jose Rizal-Sun Yat-Sen Society was celebrating the 136th birth anniversary of Dr. Sun. With the chair of the society, Dr. Alejandro Roces, and the other judges—Bal Endriga of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Andrew Y. Chang, deputy representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office—we sat in judgment over nine contestants from different schools, including Baguio.

Previous to this, my perception had been that the youth were caught up in their own world of technological gizmos, i.e., cell-phones, computer games and the latest PC hardware, going around the malls and late night-outs in Malate. Of course, it was an unfair assessment. Mea culpa. The young (and basically middle-class group) certainly know what is happening, and the sad thing is I don't know if there is any official who offers solutions to their problems. As a matter of fact, many of these officials are the problem.

More than one of the nine mentioned that the Philippines ranks high among the 99 most corrupt countries in the world and that Pulse Asia found 87.5 percent of Filipino families do not earn enough to live decently. The 2,700 Filipinos leaving this country daily are manifestations of our "economic downfall." (Not to mention corruption, ineptitude, stupidity, etc., etc). So it is not as though the young are not aware.

Our first-prize winner, Kathleen de los Reyes of St. Scholastica, major in Psychology and minor in Human Resource Management, stated that "good governance must go far beyond empty rhetoric and grandstanding." Uttering pious pronouncements with theatrical flair about being dedicated to service or pro-poor or "*maka-masa*" is not enough. Do you still remember these lines: "*Walang kai-kaibigan, walang-kama-kamag-anak, lahat ay pantay-pantay?*" The youth have listened apparently to enough empty rhetoric to conclude that the lack of "demonstrable good governance creates disillusionment."

Kathleen did not see the humor behind the "Men in Black" photo session for Tatler because "the people look for tangible results. The people want to unravel the scams or the onerous contracts, which are still kept...shrouded in mystery."

She believes leaders ought to emulate Rizal and Sun Yat-Sen's ideals on good governance which is that a leader must be equipped with "moral ascendancy to govern." (Ouch.)

Our second-prize winner, Crispin Urbanoso III, major in Mass Communications at Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila, summed it up by describing the Filipinos' daily existence: "graft and corruption, political instability, oppression, economic crisis, poverty, ignorance, weak educational system, less facilitated school environment, low budget for education, war in Mindanao, terrorist attacks in Basilan, Zamboanga and Metro Manila, jihad of the Abu Sayyaf, and political combat of the New People's Army..."

He noted that there exists "the temptation of giving in to this feeling of futility... We shrug our shoulders, sit in a corner and feel contented or frustrated over our lot. These are moments of weakness... these are moments of uncertainty that should not be allowed to weaken us but should challenge us instead to use our good sense and test our strength of character."

He believed the solution to this country's problems could be found if Filipinos were to serve their fellowmen "in giving without expecting any reward" and unite so that "we become stronger as a group that can create ripples in the lake of life, and that we can provide light in the dark night."

Our third-prize winner, William Kapuno, a Political Science major in Adamson University, noted that poverty may not be the root cause of terrorism since "the data does not fit the model. Osama bin Laden is a multimillionaire and the backgrounds of the Sept. 11 killers indicated that they were without exceptions scions of privilege." True enough, al-Qaida "has no use for illiterate peasants. They cannot take part in World-Trade-Center-like attacks lacking as they are in education and training terrorist operatives need."

It is totalitarianism, he said, that leads to terrorism. We must first understand true freedom and justice. If we internalize and put in effect Rizal's and Sun Yat-Sen's ideals of education, "God provides the weapon, and the idols and tyrants fall like and freedom shines with the first of dawn."

Second-prize winner, Urbanoso, also quoted Rizal in a reference as well to dawn, and perhaps the message is to the rest of us: "We fall during the night, we fall without seeing the beautiful dawn: but you (the youth) will feel the warmth of a new sun, you will see the light of a new day, and seeing it, do not forget those who fell during the night."

As an aside, at the preview of the "Rocky Horror Show," the producer/director solicitously said, "Tita, I hope you won't be shocked." I had to laugh.

Christine's swing

YOUNG BLOOD

Melissa Telan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IF you happen to pass by a street called Sampaguita in Mandaluyong, please give it a kiss from me. That was where I spent the best years of my life.

Our old neighborhood in Mandaluyong was anything but posh, a big contrast to the village to where we transferred when I turned 9. In spite of that, I loved everything about that neighborhood. Perhaps it was the only place where I truly felt at home.

Our old neighborhood was like one big family. There, everyone knew everybody else's name, down to the children, the *yayas*, and even the vendors who regularly hawked wares on our street (like Mang Jimmy who bellowed "*Taho!*" at 8 in the morning and "*Balut!*" at 8 in the evening).

But what made my stay in Sampaguita special were my friends, my old gang. When I reminisce about my group, I remember us playing *patintero, langit-lupa* or *piko* on weekends, eating *halo-halo* on lazy summer days and caroling during the Christmas season. Sadly, my memory bank contains only so much and I can hardly remember anything else about my friends.

There is, however, one person I still remember very well: my friend, Christine. She lived right across our old place and, even though she was 4 years older, she was my partner in crime. Together, we would go hunting for *salagubang* at the nearby *bangin* and collect spiders in the basement of our house.

My other friends considered such activities icky. Christine and I thought our other friends were icky, and together we would laugh until our bellies ached.

I recall spending countless days in Christine's house. Actually I liked to go there because of her mama's heavenly cooking, but she thought it was because of her swing. That white swing, a gift from her papa on her 9th birthday, was Christine's pride and joy (she was the only one in the neighborhood who had one).

One day out of the blue, Christine told me she was leaving for America "to get well." She said she had leukemia, a sickness I had never heard of then. I was not a bit worried. Christine was a strong girl.

When would she be back? I wanted to know. She said she didn't know. But while she was away, could I please take care of her swing?

We spent the whole day in our house, taking turns at the swing. And the next day she left.

The swing is still with me up to this day, 13 years later. Christine never came back for it.

The swing is a bit rusty now, but I would not let anyone put it away. Others may think it is just a piece of junk, an eye sore. But that swing is my link to my carefree days in Sampaguita.

Sometimes, I sit on it (even though it's too big for me now) and reminisce. I would remember Mang Jimmy, who sold *taho* in the mornings and *balut* in the evenings. I would remember my old gang and our games during weekends. And then I would remember Christine, and the happy times we had together. And how she loved her white swing. And how I loved her. And how I would never see her again.

Melissa Telan, 19, is a Communication Arts junior at the Ateneo de Manila University and a correspondent of 2bU!

Conquered

Chadwick B. Tan

SOMEONE once offered an answer to the old question about why people climb mountains. Because it is there, he said. The mountain exists.

He made it sound as if it were an easy task to scale a mountain and climb down again. But not so long ago, for the nth time I struggled to reach the peak of Mount Banahaw. With every breath left in my lungs, I tried to keep up with the swift pace my fellow hikers were setting. During such times, unpleasant thoughts begin to crowd my mind. Why do I bother climbing mountains?

The weather was not good on our way up. By the time we reached the camp site it was raining pretty hard.

But the clouds dissipated for a brief period the next day. And in those few precious minutes, I was able to take a peak at the stunning scenery below.

The sight was enough to remove whatever doubts I had about climbing. By early evening, when all traces of clouds were removed, I stood outside our tent in awed silence as the night sky revealed myriads of stars I had never seen in the city.

The sunrise was even more glorious, eliciting from me a plea for forgiveness over my complaints. Here I was, watching creation's colors unfold, a mere spectator to the wonderful testament of God's glory. As sunlight bathed the river, plain, valley, hill and mountain below, I could almost hear angels singing from a distance.

The Western notion of mountaineering is ridiculous. They talk about "conquering" a mountain. But it is the opposite that happens. The moment we set foot on a mountain, we are reminded of how small we are, mere visitors to a place of beauty. Then we realize that we have the responsibility to preserve its splendor, although a lot of people quickly forget it. We go to this place to escape the chaos of our Lilliputian lives and take a momentary break from the pursuit of happiness, only to be reminded of what happiness is all about.

I cherish those moments spent at the peak of the mountain. It's kind of ironic that such an experience can humble me in so many ways and yet give meaning to my existence. I keep these memories so that I can summon them back when I lose sight of the little things that make life truly worth living or when I have big questions that need answers.

Why do I bother to climb mountains? It is because I exist. And my soul eagerly waits for the next chance to see the sunrise and the night sky from the top of a mountain again.

Chadwick B. Tan, 27, works in a government office while studying for a master's degree at the University of the Philippines.

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Senator or plain citizen?

IF I may be excused by the good Sen. Panfilo Lacson for calling him "Citizen Ping," I will explain why.

Lacson seems to be all over the place. He sells brandy, writes propaganda columns, talks to the media, exchanges barbs with NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, and spends time in the Court of Appeals, or, in the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings denying allegations about his involvement in illegal drug trafficking and other crimes.

This early, calling cards bearing the words "Ping for President" are already circulating. It seems that Ping is very busy doing so many things, except his job as senator. Plenty of politicking seems to be the order of his working day, while his nights are spent with his buddies and business associates.

Somebody ought to tell him that his primary duty as an elected official is to craft laws that will benefit the people. So, with all due respect, until he passes his first piece of legislation, I will continue calling him "Citizen Ping."

—BERNIE CATANDUANES,
Mandaluyong City

Three-year moratorium on Clean Air Act

WE thank you for finding the issue raised by the Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (TODA) newsworthy.

However, we would like to correct the statement of Severino del Rosario regarding TODA's demand in relation to MMDA Resolution 02-36 implementing the Clean Air Act. The news item last Nov. 17 quoted Del Rosario as saying that there will be a "phase-out period of three to five years for 2-stroke models." It should have read: "three to five years moratorium on the implementation of MMDA Resolution 02-36 in accordance with the Clean Air Act."

We are advocates of clean air and better surroundings in Metro Manila. We even pledge to help save our environment by planting one million trees in 2003. However, we have some issues and concerns to be considered before the implementation of the law. Thus, we request the concerned agencies to set a moratorium and consult our sector considering its social and economic impact not only on TODA but also on dealers and the motorcycle manufacturing industry.

—ADOLFO "PONG' QUIMING
secretary general, TODAPilipinas
NCR, national convenor,
TODAPilipinas, 32 Valiant St.,
Fairview Park, Capitol Site,
Quezon City

Dangerous quack doctor

IN THESE times when people are hurt or killed by terrorists, kidnapped, robbed and so on, I would like to bring to your attention another kind of crime. This is committed by quack doctors who charge exorbitant fees for useless and dangerous treatments. They operate by paying people to bring customers and there are many people who will send their friends to hell for a few thousand pesos.

My wife was victimized lately by one of these quacks to the tune of P10,000, paid before treatment.

Her skin was good before, but after treatment it started to peel and her feet turned dark brown. A week or so later, sores started to appear all over body and face.

The quack's advice: Go on with the "treatment" and in two weeks' time everything would be fine.

After two weeks everything was worse. The new advice of the quack: Wait another three weeks.

His last advice: After three months of treatment, your skin will be fine.

After two months of skin poisoning and brainwashing from that quack, my wife finally heeded my advice that she consult a doctor. Prognosis: lots of damage and scars will remain even after proper medication.

This quack already robbed us of P10,000. She was also aware of the damage she was doing, but she never told my wife to seek proper medical care. She went on to apply more poison to the skin, making the condition worse.

We have proof of everything stated here: names, addresses, pictures showing skin damage, medical receipts, picture of the quack's place of business and permit.

By the way, our doctor said she had already treated other victims of that quack. But this quack seems to be influential. She makes it a point to tell her customers that she knows the chief of police—meaning that if you are not satisfied, forget about complaining.

—N. BRUNELL,
P.O. Box 480, Cebu Central
Post Office, 6000 Cebu

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Logs in Batangas were imported

ALLOW us to clarify Ricardo B. Tan's query (PDI, 11/20/02, "Old growth logs still being cut") on why Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez was allegedly allowing illegal logging in Batangas.

Tan said he regularly sees several six-wheeler trucks parked along the national highway in Batangas, each carrying hard and old wood logs no less than two feet in diameter, apparently from our old growth forests.

According to DENR Region 4 executive director Samuel Penafiel, the logs are not felled from Philippine forests but are actually imported from timber-producing countries like Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands.

Also, there are hardly any old growth forests in Batangas.

The logs are shipped to the Philippines by Wu Kong Co. through the Port of Batangas City and processed at the Philippine Export Processing Zone in Rosario, Cavite.

They are re-exported as processed lumber for housing purposes to Japan and other Asian countries which do not have forest cover such as Singapore, in return earning for the country bigger revenues in export taxes.

The DENR only issues transshipment documents to the company to monitor timber movement.

If Tan took a closer look at the trucks, he would have noticed that signboards were prominently displayed, a requirement by the DENR to assure the public that these are imported logs for processing and not taken from our forests.

We assure the public that Alvarez is bent on pursuing President Macapagal-Arroyo's intensified anti-illegal logging campaign as shown in the recent operations of the DENR against illegal loggers which already netted millions in illegal forest products.

—BUTCH A. GARCIA, assistant
director, Public Affairs Office,
Department of Environment
and Natural Resources, Visayas
Avenue, Diliman, QC

Drowning in rising cost of water

A RANDOM check of my Maynilad water bills from 1999 up to October 2002 showed the following: December 1999, P65.91; March 28, 2001, P123.50; Nov. 22, 2001, P109; December, January and February 2002, P651.15, and August, September and October 2002, P1,191.14.

When Maynilad took over from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, everybody was happy because of its low water rates. Three years later, it has become a monster of greed. Rapacious add-on costs like DA, EC, SEWER, VAT, PENALTIES and MISC keep consumers groaning and drowning—not from water, but from the onerous and extraneous billings.

As INQUIRER columnist Neal H. Cruz opined, water was already there when Maynilad took over. Why then are we paying for currency exchange rate adjustments and foreign currency adjustments? Are we now drinking imported water? Help, we're drowning!

—JAIME P. GESMUNDO,
2942 Samal St.,
Tondo, Manila

Another payment option for Meralco

THIS has reference to the ruling of the Supreme Court regarding the refund of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) of P28.15 billion.

May I respectfully suggest to President Macapagal-Arroyo to make an arrangement immediately with the Meralco management, as soon as the Supreme Court ruling becomes final and executory, that instead of refunding P28.15 billion, the present Purchase Power Adjustment (PPA) be abolished as payment of the refund.

The abolition of the PPA is a good option for Meralco to pay for the refund to its customers.

I hope that the President will consider this suggestion seriously.

—ALBERT G. FIGUERAS,
c/o CHR, Commonwealth Avenue,
UP Diliman, Quezon City

Toothpaste ad leaves bad taste in the mouth

THE LATEST Colgate commercial advertisement is offensive. It shows a group of women dancing on stage. A young man in the audience sends one of the dancers a flying kiss and she steps down and kisses him seductively. At first I thought it was one of those mushy Close Up toothpaste advertisements but it turned out to be Colgate.

I used to love the family centered advertisements of Colgate. This one is a big disappointment, leaving a bad taste in the mouth. I just bought *pa naman* three family size Colgate tubes!

—SR. MARY PILAR VERZOSA, RGS,
Pro-life Philippines,
2486 Legarda St.,
Sampaloc, Manila

Fire trap in Greenhills

HAVE people seen how the management of Virra Mall has rented out even the corridors of Virra Mall? Go up to the second and third floor and see the crowd of vendors displaying their goods right on the corridors (hallways, if you prefer) that are supposed to be for people to pass. Isn't this a clear violation of the Fire Code ?

In the event of a fire, how can we expect people to exit safely when there are so many vendors in the hallways?

This is greed at work. Just rent out any available space even if the place becomes a fire trap.

Little guys like us have no voice and have no power. But let us not wait until our loved ones become victims of this fire trap before we protest.

—JAY REYES,
Project 7, Quezon City

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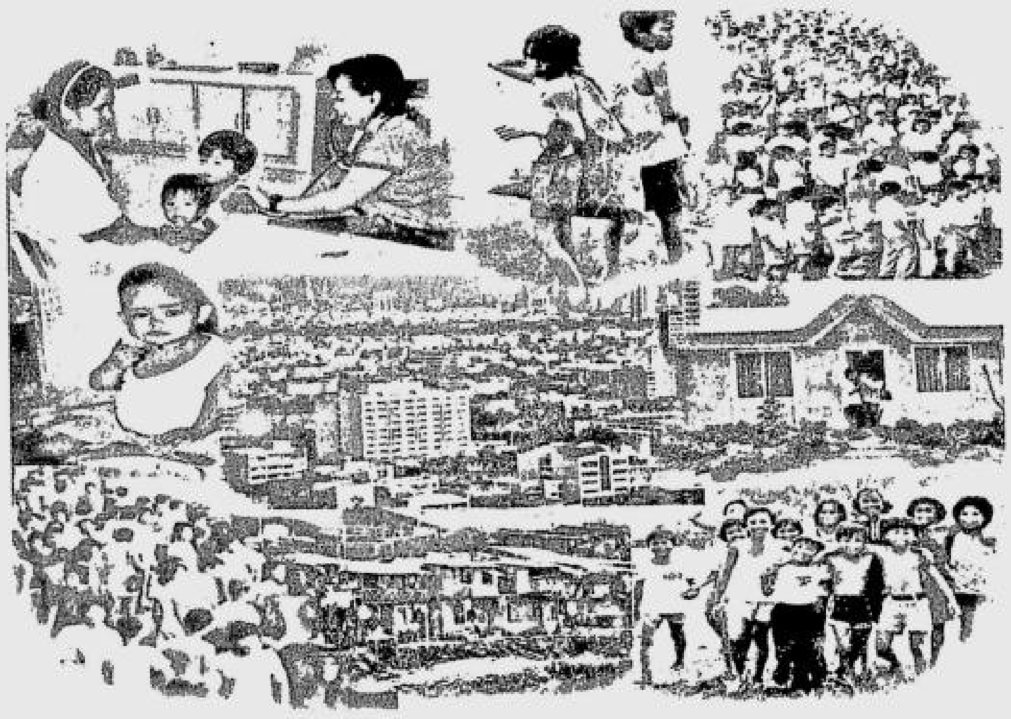

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Recognition Program
Local Chief Executives & Media Professionals

COMMISSION ON POPULATION
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

100 killed in riots over Miss World

LAGOS—Angry mobs stabbed and set fire to bystanders in rioting that erupted after a newspaper suggested Islam's founding prophet would have approved of the Miss World beauty pageant. At least 100 people were killed and 521 injured.

The violent demonstrators in the northern city of Kaduna burned churches and rampaged through the streets Thursday until hundreds of soldiers were deployed to restore calm and enforce a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

"A lot of people died. We don't know yet exactly how many . . . more than 100," said Emmanuel Ijewere, the president of the Nigerian Red Cross.

Street demonstrations began Wednesday with the burning of an office of ThisDay newspaper in Kaduna after it published an article questioning Muslim groups that have condemned the Miss World pageant, to be held Dec. 7 in the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

Muslim groups say the pageant promotes sexual promiscuity and indecency.

"What would (the prophet) Muhammad think? In all honesty, he would probably have chosen a wife from among them (the contestants)," Isioma Daniel wrote in Saturday's article.

The newspaper ran a brief front-page apology, followed by a more lengthy retraction on Thursday, saying the offending passage had run by mistake.

More than 100 people were stabbed, bludgeoned or burned to death and 521 were seriously injured in Thursday's rioting, Ijewere said.

At least four churches were destroyed, he said.

Many of the bodies were taken by Red Cross workers and other volunteers to local mortuaries. Many people remained inside homes that were set afire by the demonstrators, Ijewere said.

Shehu Sani of the Kaduna-based Civil Rights Congress said he watched a crowd stab one young man, then force a tire filled with gasoline around his neck and burn him alive. Sani said he saw three other bodies elsewhere in the city.

Alsa Hassan, founder of another human rights group, Alsa Care, said he saw a commuter being dragged out of his car and beaten to death by protesters.

Schools and shops hurriedly closed as hordes of young men, shouting "Allahu Akhbar," or "God is great," ignited makeshift street barricades made of tires and garbage, sending plumes of black smoke rising above the city. Others were heard chanting, "Down with beauty" and "Miss World is sin."

Hundreds of police and soldiers were deployed to restore calm. Riding in pickup trucks, they fired tear gas at protesters marching through otherwise abandoned streets waving tree branches and palm fronds. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Israel enters Bethlehem

JERUSALEM—The Israeli Army early Friday moved into the West Bank town of Bethlehem following a suicide attack on a bus in Jerusalem that killed 11 people, an Israeli military source said.

Israeli armor also entered the southern Gaza Strip, killing a Palestinian policeman with tank fire, a Palestinian hospital source said.

Earlier, army radio had quoted high-ranking military officials as saying an offensive on Bethlehem was inevitable as Thursday's bomber was identified as coming from the southern West Bank town. ***AFP***

Menacing oil slick

FINISTERRE—Fierce gales and huge waves kept clean-up vessels in port on Thursday as another oil slick from the sunken tanker Prestige menaced Spain's northwest coast, already polluted by hundreds of tons of toxic fuel oil.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and EU Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio led growing calls for a crackdown on unseaworthy ships and the bringing forward of a ban on ageing single-hull tankers like the Prestige. Double-hull vessels have been deemed sturdier.

Volunteers and fishermen with shovels joined the painstaking battle to remove the stinking sludge washed ashore from the Prestige, which snapped in two and sank 130 nautical miles off Spain on Tuesday, six days after getting into difficulty in a storm.

It could prove to be one of the world's worst oil spills as the ship carried twice as much as the Exxon Valdez spewed out when it ran aground in Alaska in 1989, stamping on the world's mind the most devastating oil spill environmental disaster.

The Prestige took most of her 77,000 tons of fuel oil to the ocean floor some 3.6 km below, but at least 10,000 tons is believed to have leaked into the Atlantic. ***Reuters***

Nato backs Iraq action

PRAGUE—Nato Thursday committed itself to supporting "effective" action to back UN demands for Iraq to disarm, but key ally Germany made clear it would not be a party to any military action.

The United States and its closest ally, Britain, meanwhile stepped up pressure on Baghdad with a pair of airstrikes on mobile radars in southern Iraq.

The raids came amid intensifying Iraqi attacks on US and British aircraft patrolling no-fly zones even as Baghdad welcomed back UN arms inspectors.

The Nato summit's unanimous declaration here papered over deep divisions within the alliance over US President George W. Bush's push to disarm Iraq by force if necessary.

"Participation does not come into the question," German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said of the military option. ***AFP***

Al-Qaida leader nabbed

WASHINGTON—Authorities have captured al-Qaida's top leader in the Gulf, Abd al-Rashim al-Nashiri, dealing a major blow to the terrorist network as it was plotting multiple actions in the region, US officials said Thursday.

Al-Nashiri, who was captured in recent weeks, was a key planner of the 2000 terrorist attack that crippled the warship USS Cole in Yemen and in the 1998 bombings of US embassies in east Africa, a US official said. ***AFP***

US soldiers shot in Kuwait

KUWAIT—A Kuwaiti policeman shot and seriously wounded two US soldiers on Thursday, the Kuwaiti government said, in the latest in a series of shootings targeting US troops training in the country.

The interior ministry said in a statement that the attacker was a junior policeman who fled across the border to Saudi Arabia after shooting the soldiers.

"The culprit of this criminal act fled to . . . Saudi Arabia and coordination is under way with security authorities in the kingdom to arrest and hand him over," the statement said. ***Reuters***

Alleged Bali brains talks

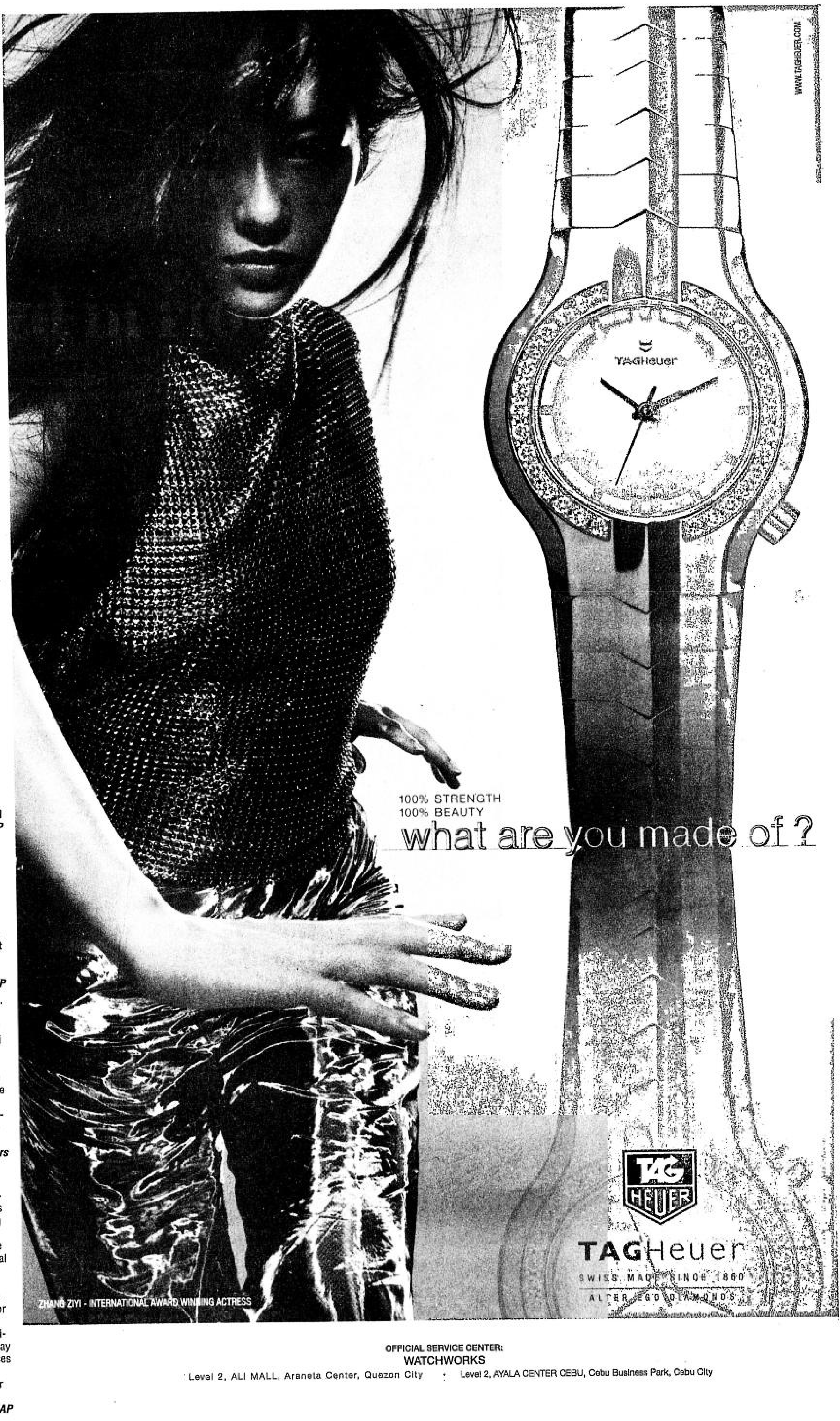
JAKARTA—Imam Samudra, the alleged mastermind of last month's deadly nightclub bombings in Bali, has confessed to planning and executing the attack, a top investigator said Friday.

"He has already confessed," said Gen. I Made Mangku Pastika, who is heading the international investigation on Bali.

Police arrested Samudra late Thursday on a bus in the port of Merak on Indonesia's main Island of Java as he tried to reach a ferry bound for the western island of Sumatra.

It was the biggest breakthrough of the investigation into the Oct. 12 blasts. Authorities now say they are confident that his remaining accomplices will be captured soon.

Samudra, 35, is reportedly a leading member of Jemaah Islamiah, an al-Qaida ally seeking to impose an Islamic state in Southeast Asia. ***AP***



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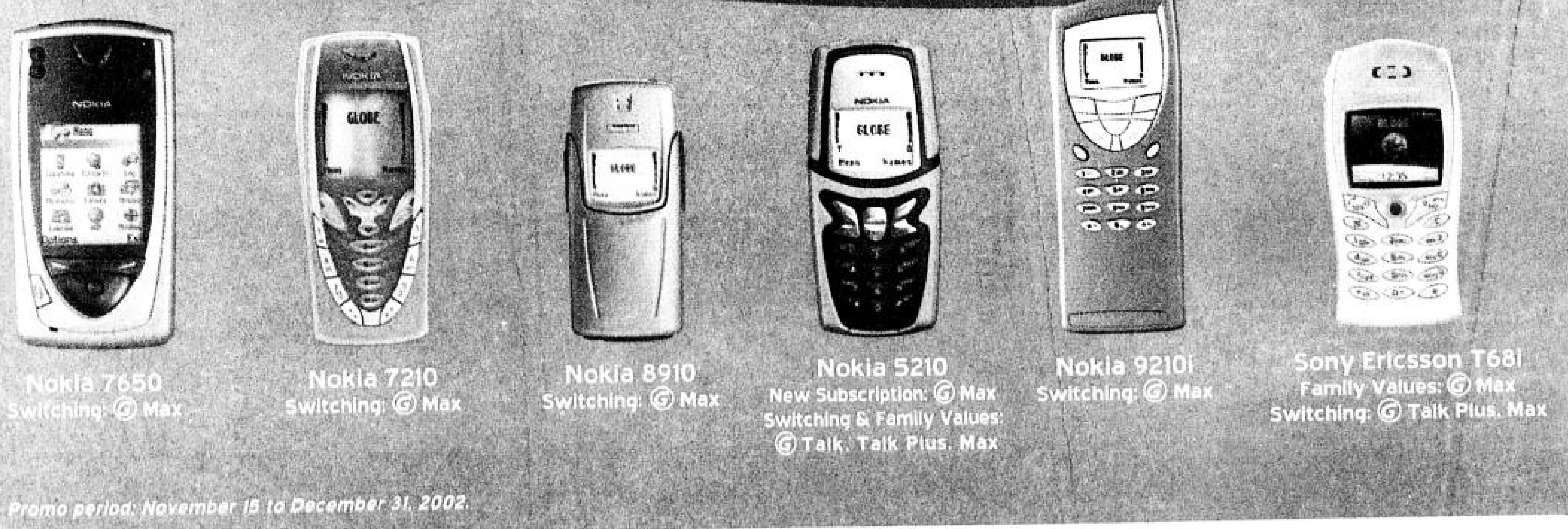
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Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
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4 persons hurt in melee during DAR's enforcement of CARP

By Carla P. Gomez, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—Four persons were hurt yesterday after the Department of Agrarian Reform tried to install farmer-beneficiaries in the disputed sugar estate of the heirs of the late Marcos associate Roberto S. Benedicto.

This happened when DAR personnel, backed by soldiers and policemen, tried to break through the barricade put up by some 100 pro-Benedicto allies at the gate of Hacienda Esperanza in La Carlota City. DAR personnel hosed down the human barricade with water from the La Carlota firetruck, but the pro-Benedicto group resisted and hurled stones at the DAR group.

An Army captain, two policemen and a pro-Benedicto worker, who remained unidentified as of presstime, were injured during the stone-throwing.

DAR officials led by Undersecretary Efren Moncupa arrived in the disputed property, about 46 km south of Bacolod City, to ensure that the 182 farmer-beneficiaries could peacefully take over the property that had been awarded to them by the government under the agrarian reform program.

Earlier, Moncupa decided against forcing their way into the property to avoid bloodshed.

The pro-management protestors barricaded the entrance to the farm with two tractors. Some pro-management farmers were seen carrying bolos and tension was high as the DAR officials continued to try to enforce the installation order.

Felicidad Banares, provincial agrarian reform officer, said they began negotiations at 10 a.m. but until late yesterday afternoon, the pro-Benedicto group refused to give in. The forced entrance by DAR took place shortly after 4 p.m.

The DAR officials came after President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday directed Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza to install all of the 182 farmer-beneficiaries of the 564-hectare Hacienda Esperanza owned by the Benedictos' Malibu Agro Corp.

The failure to enforce land reform in Negros Occidental was raised by beneficiaries' representatives in a dialogue with the President in Malacañang that lasted four hours Wednesday, according to Fr. Rodrigo Anoran.

Anoran represents 76 of the Hacienda's farmer-beneficiaries who were awarded 174 hectares of the estate.

He said during the meeting with Ms Macapagal, they raised the failure of government to install farmers on the land due them despite the issuance of Certificates of Land Ownership Award.

Braganza earlier told the INQUIRER he would tap the help of the police and the military to ensure a peaceful installation of the 182 farmer-beneficiaries.

Bebot Carballo, president of the pro-management workers who are members of the Workers Amalgated Union of the Philippines, yesterday said they would not allow the DAR to install the members of the Nagasi Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative because a case is still pending at the Court of Appeals seeking to exclude those who are not original tillers of the land.

He said only 27 of the 77 Nagasi members are qualified beneficiaries.

Bishops lament theft of icons

By Lino Gilbert K. Parone Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) expressed helplessness and disgust over the looting of treasures from Catholic churches.

Tagbilaran Bishop Leo Tumulak, CBCP committee chair on cultural heritage, said the Church has put in place security measures but the stealing of the treasures continue.

"There is only one way these thefts can be stopped—if all our icons and artifacts are already gone from our churches," he said in an interview at the Bishop's residence in Tagbilaran, Bohol.

Tumulak said they hired guards to secure some old churches in Bohol like the Baclayon Church, said to be the oldest Catholic Church in Asia.

"Even then, some of these churches were breached. In some, the robbers gained entry by forcibly tearing down entrance doors," he said.

Robbers had hit Bohol's centuries-old churches in Baclayon, Loboc and Maribojoc in the last few years. Last Sunday, Tumulak said robbers stole an icon from the parish church in Garcia Hernandez.

In Cebu, 11 cases of church thefts were reported to the police this year although priests said there were more.

In a church in Dalaguete town, four antique images of saints were lost in a week's time. In the other thefts, the hands and heads of the images were taken.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal had expressed dismay over the helplessness of the police in preventing the thefts.

"I have written circulars about these, instructed my priests to secure their churches, and also asked the government officials and the police for help, I don't know what I could do more," Vidal said.

Tumulak said he understood the Cardinal's frustration as the police could not even help them in their recovery efforts.

He said police had told him that the group behind the thefts enjoyed protection from the police and military, and to venture into uncovering this syndicate was "a risk to life and limb."

Tumulak admitted that even the CBCP couldn't get names from the police.

Mystery surrounds 'suspicious' package with P45,000, fruits

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A funny thing happened to members of the city's bomb squad on Wednesday. They managed to "detonate" what could be credited as their most expensive "terrorist bomb" yet.

Packages owned by an anonymous woman caller were delivered by courier to a Baguio flower shop on Wednesday night, alarming the shop's employees.

The shop's management immediately called the police. The shop is located in a Baguio building that was the subject of a bomb scare earlier this month.

But the explosives experts were surprised when they inspected the package and found a parcel containing P42,500 in crisp bills, and mounds of green mangoes and a watermelon.

The money later disappeared, baffling Senior Supt. Francisco Manalo, city police director, and the management of the flower shop Mom & Pop.

Worse, the money's supposed owner called the INQUIRER Northern Luzon Bureau on Thursday afternoon, demanding that the newspaper investigate Mom & Pop for the missing cash. The woman refused to identify herself and had sounded intolerant.

But she said the money she left in the package was meant for a victim of a vehicular accident.

"You should pity the beneficiary, if the money ends up with someone else . . . I don't know where to go. I don't know if I'm asking the right agency," she said before hanging up. The caller claimed to be calling from Metro Manila.

Mom & Pop employees said the INQUIRER caller appeared to be the same woman who had asked them to take custody of the packages.

"We did not know why (an anonymous woman caller) wanted us to take custody of her packages, and when we asked for instructions, she ended up hurling harsh words . . . ," said a Mom & Pop employee.

"The caller was arrogant. She insisted that we supply her with plastic wrappers, and that we should wrap her things. We told her the shop does not usually provide these kinds of services, but she kept calling and calling, and she was very irritating and demanding," one of the store's managers told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

POLICEMEN counting the bills before the money disappeared.
TOOTS SOBERANO

On Wednesday night, a cab driver delivered two boxes, sealed in masking tape, to the shop.

A man claimed the packages just as the police went to the store.

Police held the man while they checked the package for explosives or illegal drugs.

They found a pouch with the money, and a cellular phone that was traced to a certain Jeanette Pecson.

The police and the shopkeepers immediately conducted an inventory of the packages' contents, and counted the cash in the presence of the man and several reporters.

They asked the man to count the cash himself. But the police left without the money or the man.

"The police kept the boxes in their custody without retrieving the cash from the man," she said. *With a report from Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Albay townsfolk rally vs NPA attacks on telecoms stations

GUINOBATAN, Albay—Barely a week after the Smart and Globe Telecommunications relay stations suspended their operations here, about 200 residents and businessmen from different barangays of this town staged a condemnation rally yesterday against the New Peoples Army (NPA) whom they blamed for the shut down in the stations' operations.

"CPP/NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines/New Peoples Army) salot (CPP/NPA a plague)," "CPP/NPA perwisyo digdi sa Albay (CPP/NPA a nuisance here in Albay)," and "CPP/NPA sawa na kami sa pang-aabuso nindo (CPP/NPA we're fed up with your abuses)," were just among the messages boldly written on placards carried by the protesters.

Lawyer Ricardo Nepomuceno, head of the protest rally against the NPA, said the objective of the rally was to unite not only the people of Guinobatan but of the entire Bicol region in condemning the NPA's "barbarous" activities against the people.

He added that the Bicolanos, particularly residents of Guinobatan, are now irked and upset at the communist group because their lives and businesses have been severely disrupted by the guerrillas' attacks on the equipment of the two telecommunication firms.

The attacks prompted the two firms to stop operations.

Nepomuceno also warned those who continue supporting the NPA that if they would be found guilty of actively supporting the NPA and giving the rebels revolutionary tax, they will be sued and charged with rebellion. *Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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SBMA exec fumes at attack on his home

THE HOUSE of a member of the board of directors of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) was found with bullet marks Thursday morning.

Initial reports said a witness saw a gunman on foot carrying a long firearm stand in front of the New West Kalayaan house of businessman Ricardo Coscolluela, fire at it from the street, and flee.

No one was in the house at the time of the shooting.

Coscolluela, who arrived in his house on Thursday morning to find it riddled with bullets, said that he is "angered by this act of violence and lawlessness and will insist that the full force of the law be brought upon the persons responsible."

Despite the presence of numerous SBMA checkpoints and security personnel in the area, no report was made until Coscolluela arrived the next day.

Dehydration from diarrhea kills 3; poor sanitation in village blamed

LAOAG CITY—The provincial health department has begun chlorinating several water sources in Piddig town, 18 km from here, after three of 14 villagers, who suffered from mild to severe dehydration caused by diarrhea, have died.

Initial investigation conducted by the provincial health office here revealed that the victims fell ill after partaking food from a burial feast last Nov. 20.

The victims, who complained of severe stomach pain and diarrhea, were initially treated at the Piddig District Hospital but were later transferred to government hospitals here and in Batac town.

Confirmed dead were Florentina Duldulao, 78, her son Romeo, 37, and Cesario Aquino, 50, all of Piddig. The other victims, whose ages range from four to 82 years old, are still being treated in hospitals.

"To ensure that the sickness was not caused by contaminated water, we have taken water samples from the tap and deep well for testing. We suspect that the victims may have developed the sickness primarily from contaminated food because not all visitors were afflicted," Dr. Rogelio Balbag, provincial health officer, said.

He said health personnel have also conducted massive chlorination of water sources there to eliminate the chances of the residents getting afflicted with water-borne illnesses.

Most Piddig residents rely on deep well and spring water as drinking sources.

Health officials immediately dashed speculations a cholera outbreak had hit the eastern town of Piddig because of the growing number of victims.

"These cases are not caused by cholera because not all village residents there developed the illness," Balbag said.

He said health personnel had been sent to Piddig to conduct an information drive on proper food handling, sanitary practices and water purification. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

3 inmates charged with rape of girl, 16

BACOLOD CITY—Rape charges were filed against three inmates of the Murcia Municipal Jail for allegedly molesting a 16-year-old girl.

Charged with rape before the Negros Occidental Prosecutor's Office were Richard Sevilla, Crisanto Anatan and Ronnie Saldo, prisoners at the municipal jail.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), which filed the case on Wednesday, advised the guardian of the victim to subject the girl to a psychological examination.

The girl only finished Grade 4 and worked as a housemaid in Murcia town, 16.5 km southeast of this city. She told authorities that Sevilla, one of the accused prisoners, was a suitor of hers.

According to the complaint, the victim was watching a basketball game at the Murcia Sports and Recreational Auditorium at about 4 p.m. of Nov. 9 when Sevilla, a prisoner who was allowed to reside outside of jail, called her.

Sevilla then brought his alleged victim to the second floor of a "rest house" located inside the jail compound.

At the rest house, the complaint said, Sevilla started raping the girl.

In her sworn statement, the girl said she did not shout when Sevilla started to rape her because Sevilla threatened to kill her.

The two other prisoners, Anatan and Saldo, followed Sevilla in ass[illegible]g the girl and took turns in raping her, the victim added in her sworn affidavit. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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39 years

Nicanor Patungan (Deceased)
Jovita Camacho (Daughter)
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Lourdes E. Marasigan (Fresh Fish Section)

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Clotilde M. Busa (Employee)

Margarita M. Valencerina (Employee)

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Leonora T. dela Cruz (Fresh Meat Section)

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Francisco V. Joaquin (Fresh Vegetables Section)

24 years

Purificacion C. Aquilino (Fresh Fish Section)

Leonida N. Irinco (Fresh Meat Section)

Martina L. Mendoza (Fresh Fish Section)

Cresencio Reyes (Deceased)
Evelina R. Abutan (Daughter)
(Dried Fish Section)

Trinidad V. Berja (Employee)

LAND CONFLICT EYED

Ilocos 'gift bomb' sender known

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur—Police said they have traced the sender of a "gift" bomb that killed an eight-year-old girl and wounded her father and two siblings here on Monday night.

"We are preparing the appropriate charges against the sender and the two tricycle drivers who delivered the package," Senior Insp. Fabiano Sudario Jr., Sta. Cruz police chief, told the INQUIRER.

Marjorie Lovely Caligtan was killed while her father Leopoldo, a former minister of the Pentecostal Church, and siblings Shiela, 14, and Ryan, 19, suffered second and third degree burns after the "gift" bomb exploded inside their house in Barangay Daligan here.

The two tricycle drivers, Elias Jandoc and Ricardo Acosta, would be charged as accessories to the bomb attack.

"It is up to the court if it would allow them (the tricycle drivers) to be state witnesses," Sudario said.

The sender is a native of Sta. Cruz but who is now residing in Ilocos Norte.

Police said the motive for the bomb attack could be linked to a conflict involving a rice land being tilled by the elder Caligtan.

Sta. Cruz Vice Mayor Jose Ping-ay said the sender had been positively identified by a witness.

The witness saw the sender in Sta. Lucia, the town near Sta. Cruz, testing a six-volt battery that was similar to the one used for the package bomb before packing and sending it through a tricycle driver, who was later identified as Acosta.

The witness was quoted as saying that Acosta then gave the package to Jandoc who delivered the deadly gift to the Caligtans.

Ping-ay said the witness was able to retrieve the bus ticket left by the sender and gave it to the police.

The bus ticket showed that the sender came from Ilocos Norte and would become part of pieces of evidence against the bomb sender.

Ping-ay said the sender could have been taught how to assemble the "gift" bomb.

"It could be the handiwork of someone or a group which the sender used as an instrument. The bigger picture is somebody or a group is behind the sender," he said.

He asked: "What are the motives of teaching or giving the sender the home-made bomb to resolve a personal problem?"

The Philippine Postal Office has issued a nationwide alert for suspicious packages (see related story below in Roundup) following the sending of a mail bomb to the Myanmar embassy in Makati.

Authorities expressed fears that terrorists would use the postal system to deliver bombs through letters and packages. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Radio man faces death penalty on drug raps

PAGADIAN CITY—A radioman here could end up in the death row for drug pushing and maintaining a drug den, a ranking official of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said.

Herohito Cadion of the government-sequestered RPN9-dxKP was arrested with Reynaldo Lobo, also a broadcaster connected with radio dxId, during a raid on Nov. 6. Three others were held during the raid, which yielded several sachets of suspected shabu.

The raid on Cadion's residence was covered by a search warrant, which authorities secured after suspicions that he was into the drug trade were reportedly verified.

Friolo Icao Jr., NBI district chief, said Cadion could be the first media man to face lethal injection if found guilty of all the charges.

The first two charges against Cadion, Icao said, were based on the amended version of the Penal Code and of the Dangerous Drugs Act.

"The amended versions are very clear that if you are arrested for maintaining a drug den and engaging in selling illegal drugs, the penalties are either life (in prison) or death," he said.

"What matters most is when it is established that the suspect was selling illegal drugs," he said. *Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A Novena for the Fourth World Meeting of Families.

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For the Family
For the Pope
And for Peace

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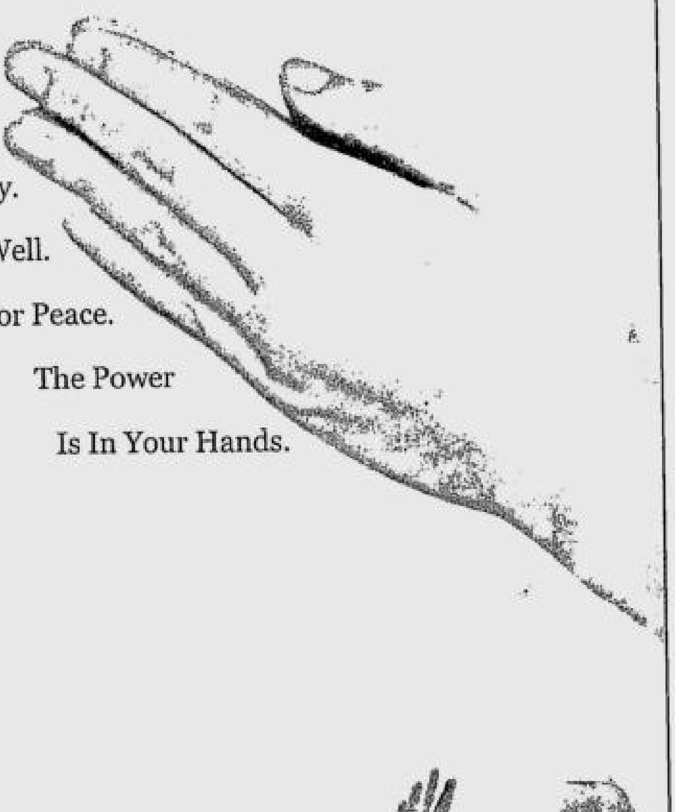
Wish The Pope Well.
Pray For Peace.
The Power
Is In Your Hands.



The Fourth World Meeting of Families
January 22 -26, 2003 • Manila, Philippines

24 Nov 2002	Redemptorist Church (Baclaran)
2:00 pm	Animation
2:45 pm	Arrival of Image of the Holy Family
3:00 pm	Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Socrates B. Villegas Launching of Novena
Theme:	Fathers as witnesses of the Providence and Love of God
01 Dec 2002	San Roque Church, District of Kalookan
5:00 pm	Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani Novena Prayers
Theme:	Mothers as models of Mary's humility and strength
08 Dec 2002	St. Peter Church (Commonwealth Avenue), District of Kalookan
5:00 pm	Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani Novena Prayers
Theme:	Children as the fruits of God's love and blessings for humanity
15 Dec 2002	Manila Cathedral, District of Manila
5:00 pm	Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Rolando J. Tria Tirona Novena Mass
Theme:	Young people as signs of Jesus' trusting friendship
22 Dec 2002	Holy Family (San Andres), District of Manila
5:00 pm	Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Teodoro J. Buhain Novena Prayers
Theme:	The elderly as instruments of God's steadfastness and wisdom
29 Dec 2002	Presentation of Christ Jesus, District of Parañaque
5:00 pm	Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Jesse E. Mercado Novena Prayers
Theme:	The Christian Family as a haven of peace in the home
05 Jan 2003	Immaculate Conception, District of Pasig
5:00 pm	Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Nestor C. Carino Novena Prayers
Theme:	The Christian Family as the catalyst of peace in society
12 Jan 2003	Immaculate Conception Cubao, District of Cubao
5:00 pm	Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Socrates B. Villegas Novena Prayers
Theme:	The Christian Family as a giver of peace to the world
19 Jan 2003	Shine of Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life (Reclamation Area)
5:30 pm	Holy Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Paciano B. Aniceto Conclusion of Novena
Theme:	The Christian Family: Good News for the Third Millennium

ROUNDUP

Pirated VCD, DVD seized

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Videogram Regulatory Board seized some P800,000 worth of pirated video compact discs and digital video discs during a raid on the public market here on Tuesday. Soldiers from the Joint Task Force-General of the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade escorted the VRB team from Manila, which was led by Carlo Umijan. The team swooped down on at least seven stalls inside Phase B of the public market. The raiding team seized 80 sacks, with a total of 19,000 pieces of fake VCDs and DVDs on display in the establishments. Umijan told reporters that charges will be filed against the dealers of the counterfeit materials for violation of the intellectual property rights law. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Mail inspection

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Postal Office in Southern Mindanao has stepped up security after the discovery of a mail bomb in the Burma Embassy in Manila a few days ago. PhilPost regional director Hussin Masdal said they were on the look out for suspicious mail including greeting cards as Christmas draws near. Masdal said all mail will be thoroughly inspected before these are finally sent to recipients. He said PhilPost will only allow the sealing of mail after these have been inspected. But Philmer Frendy Gerona, PhilPost marketing specialist, said despite the heightened security, extra caution should still be exercised. *Anthony S. Allada and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lack of prosecutors

BUTUAN CITY—The National Prosecutors League of the Philippines (NPLP) has urged Congress to help address the lack of prosecutors in Mindanao by raising salaries. Lawyer Antonio Arellano, vice president for Mindanao-NPLP, said the lack of prosecutors was primarily caused by "unattractive" salary packages. He said lawyers would rather go to private practice because becoming a prosecutor is not financially rewarding. Justice Secretary Hernando Perez recently said he already asked Congress to pass laws giving additional allowances and benefits to prosecutors. The lowest-ranked prosecutor earns P14,850 a month, or almost equal to the salary of a policeman. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Trouble over smoker

DAVAO CITY—A policeman is in hot water after he ordered a college student caught violating the smoking ban in the city to do 30 push-ups. Supt. Samuel Yordan, deputy city police chief, said SPO1 Edgar Arcos was ordered to explain his alleged "misdeed" in punishing college student Jaydee Cuamag. Violators were supposed to be brought to the nearest police station. Since it was launched Saturday, the anti-smoking ban has caused the arrest of 160 smokers. Violators are penalized with both imprisonment and a fine ranging from P500 to P2,000 and cancellation of business permits for establishments selling cigarettes. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Best accounting office

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The La Union provincial accounting office won the most outstanding accounting office award (local government sector, provincial level) given by the Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines (AGAP). Provincial accountant Flora Tesaluna and her staff received the award from AGAP president, Cyril Ramos, in Tagbilaran City on Nov. 7. Other LGU awardees were Danao City, Cebu City and Mabini, Pangasinan. *Gia Damaso-Dumo. PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 kids drown

CALUMPIT, Bulacan—Two children drowned Saturday while playing at the Sapang Bayan River here, police said. The bodies of Darwin Puno, 10, and King Castillo, 9, both of Barangay Sucol here, were found floating in the river. It was learned that the two boys agreed to have a swimming contest but one of them was carried by the river current. One of them saved his companion but both drowned. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Goat dispersal

DAVAO CITY—Coconut farmers in the region received goats from the Department of Agriculture under the agency's livelihood assistance program. Rafael Mercado, chief of the livestock division of the DA in Southern Mindanao, said the dispersal program could help coconut farmers earn extra income during the dry season. The DA has initially dispersed 350 goats to Manay and San Isidro in Davao Oriental; Malita, Davao del Sur; Davao City and Maco, Compostela Valley and New Corella town in Davao del Norte. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◆ Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

MUSEO IT AKLAN

Home of the living journal of Aklanons

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Kalibo, Aklan

AKLANONS have once again found a repository of their rich cultural heritage with the reopening of the Museo It Aklan last Nov. 6.

Situated along San Martelino Street at the heart of the capital town of Kalibo, the museum is home to the province's famous *piña* textiles, jars, pottery, religious relics, furniture, crafts, tools and artifacts from the Spanish era, and local literature.

Aklan Rep. Gabrielle Calizo said the museum is a cultural landmark of the province and will serve as a venue where young people can learn about Aklanon culture and history.

She said it would also provide impetus to the development of tourism in the whole province that has been overshadowed by the world-famous Boracay Island in Malay town.

The reopening of the museum marks the culmination of years of work of Aklanons to rebuild the home of the living journal of the people of Aklan. The province is considered one of the oldest in the country, having been organized in 1213 by settlers from Borneo.

A powerful earthquake destroyed the original museum in July 1980. The roof of the building collapsed and the whole structure was condemned as unsafe.

For years, Aklanons dreamt of rebuilding the museum. At the forefront of the restoration efforts was the Archbishop Gabriel Reyes Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Founded in 1977 after the creation of the Diocese of Kalibo, the Foundation is named after the first Filipino archbishop of the Catholic Church who is considered by his provincemates as a foremost Aklanon.

The Foundation is composed of around 60 members, half of them Manila-based. The group helped raise funds that established the Bishop's Residence. It is also involved in livelihood projects and scholarship grants.

Dream fulfilled

Katipunan de los Reyes, chair of the Foundation's committee on museum, said Aklanons all over the country and abroad contributed to the funds for the museum's reconstruction.

They also sought the support of former Aklan Rep. Allen Quimpo who channeled P2.475 million from his countryside development fund for the project. Calizo, who succeeded Quimpo, continued supporting the rehabilitation efforts by contributing P5.5 million.

While the funding of the legislators took care of the rehabilitation of the building, the Foundation raised at least P400,000 for designing the building's interior and acquiring the glass encasement of the artifacts, said de los Reyes.

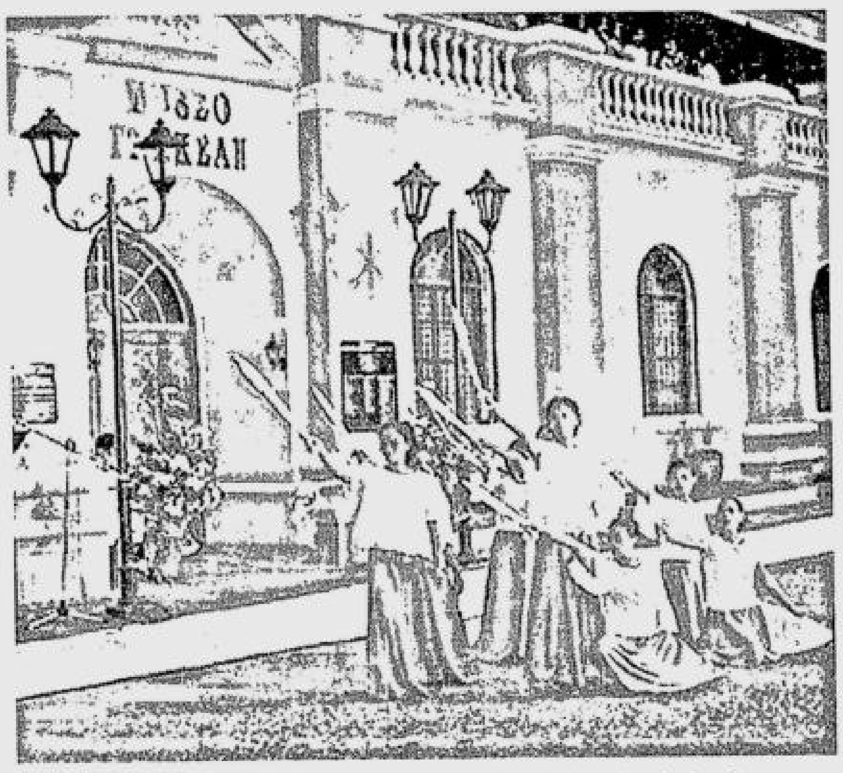
The Foundation will maintain the museum through a trust fund it has recently started.

The building housing the museum is an artifact in itself. Built in 1882 by Spanish authorities, the "Escuelahan It Hari" (King's School) served as a schoolhouse for the people of Kalibo.

It was alternately used as a court sala, auditorium, garrison, warehouse, even a movie house and a bowling place.

In 1980, the original museum was established in the building after the municipal government of Kalibo agreed to lease the building to the Foundation at one peso per year.

In rebuilding the historic edifice, the Foundation sought the technical assistance of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, Cultural Center of the Philippines, National Historical Institute and National Museum.



YOUNG Aklanons depict the heroic resistance of revolutionaries during the Spanish colonization. NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

The original one-storey structure was preserved although its posts and walls were reinforced. Another floor was added but it was designed to reflect 19th century architecture.

The ground floor displays artifacts while the upper level is reserved for temporary exhibits including contemporary art works.

Elenita Alba, chief of the museum education division of the National Museum, said the "excellent" edifice is even better than some branches of the National Museum.

Prized collections

Finished two months ago, the museum houses rare 17th and 18th century Chinese pottery, costumes of the Ati-Atihan tribes, fishing implements, rice grinder, paintings, and installation art of Aklanon artists.

Among the prized collections are the memorabilia of Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes and other religious artifacts.

"Religion is very much a part of Aklanon culture," said Bishop Gabriel V. Reyes, nephew and namesake of the late archbishop. "As the repository of Aklan culture, it will help remind young people of the Aklanon identity."

Alba said the Museo It Aklan, which the National Museum helped set up, reflects the contemporary orientation of museums as a tool for education and not only for exhibition purposes.

"Museums should not only be about antiques and artifacts. It should show the development of community and contemporary lifestyle," said Alba.

She admitted that much has to be done with the museum especially in the collection of more materials. Many of the collections are on loan from private individuals and families while others came from the original museum.

There is also the crucial question of sustainability. Alba said that while there are more than 300 museums nationwide as of 1999, many of them closed down or were turned over to the National Museum shortly after they opened.

Community support

But she said the support and cooperation of government officials and the community in Aklan for the museum is encouraging.

The unity and cooperation of the community was shown in a four-street performance during the ceremonies to the mark the reopening of the museum.

A cast of high school students traced the history and culture of Aklanons. Among the highlights was the depiction of the fierce struggle of Aklanon revolutionaries against Spanish colonization led by Katipunan leaders Francisco del Castillo and Candido Iban and the heroic death of the "19 Martyrs of Aklan," the Katipuneros who were executed on March 23, 1897.

The performance was capped with a parade of Ati-Atihan warriors amid the beating of drums.

A sudden torrent of rain failed to dampen the spirits of the young performers. For them and for Aklanons, it was a reaffirmation of their rich and proud heritage. It was a celebration of life.

'Anti-Trafficking In Persons Act' long overdue

LUCID INTERVAL
Rowena V. Guanzon

IN 1993, eight women from Bulacan were enticed to work as waitresses in Germany by Fausta, whose daughter Bernadette married Stromberg, a German. Poor, uneducated and desperate, these women dreamed of the $350 a month they could send home.

At the airport, they were escorted by personnel of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and left the country for what they thought was Germany. They ended up in Lagos, Nigeria. They were bought by an Egyptian club owner from their recruiter, Bernadette, and thereafter raped and forced to have sex with customers every day and every night.

Trapped in a foreign country with no one to call for help, the women endured their ordeal. Then in 1994, the contract of one of the women, Analyn, was bought by a Taiwanese customer and she was allowed to return home when she got pregnant. Another woman, Lori, got married to a customer, escaped from their flat and went to the Philippine Embassy. She was told by our embassy personnel to go back and earn so she could buy her plane ticket. She was able to go home when she found a Filipino customer who paid for her ticket.

In 1995, Analyn, Lori and a third victim, who was also allowed to go home after she got pregnant, filed a complaint against Bernadette and Wolfgang Stromberg and accompanied the National Bureau of Investigation to arrest the couple. The following morning, the NBI released the suspects because they said they had no warrant of arrest and could be liable for arbitrary detention.

The NBI closed the case and turned it over to the Prosecutor's Office in Bulacan. The case for sex trafficking was dismissed since there is no such crime in our laws, but the Strombergs were charged with large-scale illegal recruitment. Even with a warrant of arrest, the PNP in Malolos and Sapang Palay were not able to arrest the suspects even though they were in Manila in July to December 1995.

The Philippines has no extradition treaty with Germany so the prospect of arresting the Strombergs is dim, says lawyer Honorata Victoria, counsel for the victims.

Corruption

Just as pedophiles come here because they know that our law enforcement is weak and corruption is prevalent, traffickers in women and children have a heyday in this country where, without visas, traffickers can send women to Nigeria through NAIA, or to Malaysia through Mindanao. Corrupt DFA people issue passports to minors who end up prostituted in Kota Kinabalu; corrupt NAIA personnel escort trafficked women to their plane. Corrupt policemen do not arrest recruiters, and unfeeling Philippine Embassy personnel in Nigeria tell the victims to go back and get raped some more so they can earn their plane fares!

Data from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Asia Pacific (CATWAP) shows that 9 million people have been enslaved in the global sex trade by syndicates in human trafficking, citing a United Nations source (1999).

Jean Enriquez of CATWAP says it is difficult to collect data on trafficking because it is done underground. While non-government groups have a network, their resources cannot compete with the money of syndicates and the greed of corrupt government employees.

As long as there is a market, women and girls will be trafficked. One problem is that in some countries, rendering sexual services is considered "work," hence the recruitment from poor countries. The victims have no legal recourse in those countries even if they could escape from the brothels.

Victims

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas documented 959 cases of human trafficking from 1992 to March 2001. CATWAP estimates that there are 600 Filipino women prostituted in American military bases in Korea, many as young as 16 years old coming from Central Luzon. Many Filipinas are trafficked to Korea via Bangkok as tourists.

Japan is host to about 95 percent of 70,635 Filipino women deployed as overseas performing artists in 2001. There is reason for the concern that many of these women may have been forced to provide sexual services to customers. I personally asked the help of an NGO in Japan to rescue a woman from Iloilo who was trafficked from Manila to the US and Japan. Thanks also to our Labor Attache to Osaka, she was able to come home.

Legal recourse

Despite the alarming problem, we still have no law against trafficking in persons, even if the Philippine government has ratified the UN Protocol on Trafficking of Persons on Sept. 30, 2001.

It has been 6 years since a bill on "Anti-Trafficking In Persons Especially Women and Minors" was first filed, and up to now we have nothing. The House of Representatives has passed House Bill 4432 on third reading, but the Senate does not seem to consider this problem a priority.

What we have is Article 341 of the Revised Penal Code for white slavery, or enticing the services of a woman for prostitution, but with a low penalty.

The victim's best legal recourse against recruiters is filing for illegal recruitment which is punishable with 6 to 12 years and fine of P200,000 to P500,000, and if 3 or more were victimized, life imprisonment and fine of P500,000 to P1 million. For children (below 18), there is Republic Act 7610 for sexual abuse.

The bill on Anti-Trafficking in the House of Representatives sponsored by, among others, Representatives Josefina Joson, Liza Maza, and Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, defines trafficking in persons as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer or harbouring or receipt of persons with or without the victim's consent or knowledge through legal or illegal means within or across national borders by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of position, taking advantage of the vulnerability of the person, or, the giving or receiving of payments or benefits for the purpose of exploitation or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery or the removal or sale of organs."

The penalty is 14 to 17 years up to *reclusion perpetua* (40 years), and fine of up to P2 million. If 3 or more persons are trafficked, the penalty is *reclusion perpetua*. Facilitating the exit or entry of persons who have no travel documents is punishable by 8 to 14 years.

The House Bill also encourages bilateral or multilateral agreements to eliminate international trafficking in persons, and creates an Inter-Agency Council to monitor compliance with the law.

On Nov. 25, the start of the international 16-day campaign against gender based violence, the Senate version will hopefully be on second reading.

Every day women and girls are victimized and the longer the delay, the greater our frustration. If Senators Loi Estrada and Loren Legarda want to make a difference for women, this is their shining moment.

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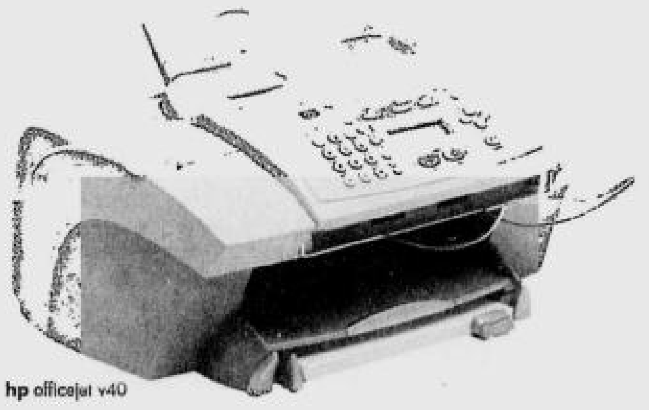

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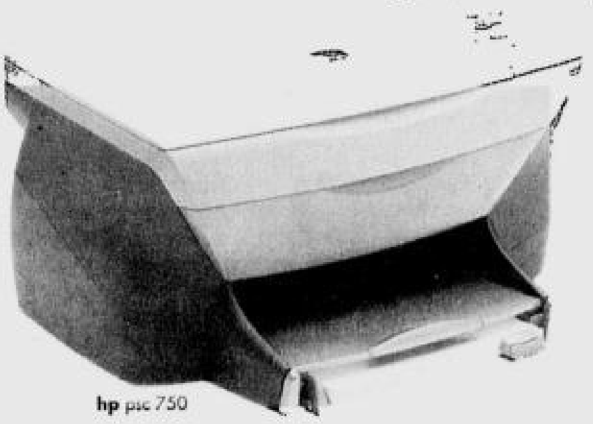

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Guingona leads loud protests vs MLSA

From page A1

same point: "To begin with, why is it that junior officers were the ones who signed something that will affect the nation as a whole, militarily and in security problems?"

Arroyo noted that lawmakers were kept in the dark about the agreement. "What turns out is that we were informed after the signing . . . A little courtesy dictates that we should have been told about it so that we could determine whether Senate participation was needed."

Sen. Edgardo Angara criticized Malacañang for the Thursday briefing on the MLSA that only Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, defense committee chair, was able to attend.

Magsaysay himself chided Foreign Secretary Blas Ople and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes for arriving at the Senate unannounced, saying they should also observe protocol. He said the senators were not informed about the briefing, which was why all but one left the Senate building at noon of that day.

'Casual, arrogant'

Angara noted the "almost surreptitious" and "very cavalier, almost casual, and arrogant" way in which the agreement was signed.

"Personally, I'm not opposed to it. I just object to the manner in which they signed it," he said in an interview after the launching of his school-feeding program at the Pinaglabanan Elementary School in San Juan.

Sen. Manuel Villar, foreign relations committee chair, called for a thorough review of the agreement.

He said he was not convinced that the agreement was not a treaty. "That is the view of the secretaries of foreign affairs and of national defense. But that is not the position of the Senate committee on foreign relations," he said.

Villar expressed surprise that the agreement was signed even before the Senate could scrutinize it. He said he wanted to know whether there were side agreements to the main agreement and what the Philippines was supposed to gain from these.

"We cannot compromise the future of our country with a hasty decision," he said. "If the MLSA needs Senate ratification, I will insist on it."

Cooperation

Guingona said there were provisions in the MLSA not covered by existing pacts between the Philippines and the United States, such as the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty and the 1999 Visiting Forces Agreement.

He cited as an example the provision on reciprocal logistics support during "cooperative efforts" inside and outside the Philippines.

He said it would be dangerous if the United States became involved in an international conflict and invoked the "cooperative efforts" clause to seek logistics support from the Philippines.

"(The provisions) involve changes in basic policy . . . They should be, as mandated by the Constitution, concurred in by the Senate," he added.

After receiving a copy of the MLSA late yesterday afternoon, the Vice President wrote Ople: "It is noteworthy that in this final agreement, significant changes have been made on matters covered by my comments and forwarded earlier to (Reyes)."

Guingona submitted his comments to the technical group working on the draft document before he quit as foreign secretary in July. He resigned the post because of policy differences, including over the MLSA, with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It is my duty to point out the provisions embodied in the MLSA that may not be beneficial to Filipinos," Guingona said yesterday.

"In the wake of the issues confronting the Middle East, we ask, Do not cooperative efforts other than activities under existing RP-US agreements include activities of a military campaign in which one party is involved and the other party is not?" he said.

He noted that that while the United States had manifested its intentions toward Iraq, the Philippines had yet to openly support a military strike.

"Is this also our national intent?" he said. "If the activity entails sending troops there, does that mean that we should do likewise? Will this be to the nation's benefit? Our Constitution says it is the Senate who should decide, not military officers representing both nations."

Deception

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said the official line that the MLSA was a low-level accord was deceptive.

He said the Palace insisted on downgrading the MLSA classification in an effort to avoid submitting the agreement to the Senate for review and ratification.

"An agreement that is of national application, to me, is not a low-level agreement," he said. "That was a lapse in courtesy on the part of Malacañang to a co-equal branch of government, which should not be tolerated."

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran urged his fellow lawmakers to investigate the "secret" signing, saying: "It was the executive that unilaterally decided to make the MLSA an executive agreement when by all accounts it's a matter that should have first passed through Congress."

The party-list representative said the President and "her hatchet men" had "committed treason."

He also took US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone to task for trying to make light of the agreement and its signing.

"Who are these American officials trying to fool?" he said. If the MLSA wasn't important to the US government and the military, then they wouldn't have been pushing and campaigning hard for its finalization and signing."

Beltran's colleague in Bayan Muna, Rep. Satur Ocampo, called for the deferment of the implementation of the MLSA pending a congressional inquiry.

Ocampo said in a phone interview that there were legal and constitutional questions that needed answers.

One, he said, was whether the agreement was valid when those who signed it were defense officials of the Philippines and the United States. He pointed out that foreign agreements were normally signed by officials of the contracting parties' foreign departments.

Ocampo also said he and Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, would file a resolution insisting on a congressional review.

Bayan Muna filed a House resolution in October asking Malacañang to disclose the contents of the MLSA and submit the draft agreement to the Senate for ratification.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said she would file a resolution opposing the classification of the MLSA as an executive agreement and raising the need for congressional scrutiny.

"The MLSA as signed poses clear and present danger to the lives of the Filipino people and the integrity of the country as a sovereign nation," Rosales said.

She also warned that the Philippines could be drawn in the US war on Iraq because of the agreement, and expressed concern that Filipino authorities would not be allowed to inspect the US storage areas.

'Wal-Mart in Far East'

Ocampo noted that while the final draft was "watered down," the MLSA still talked of operations and deployment of US troops.

"(It did) not diminish concerns and fears on the further involvement of the Philippines in the US war given (Ms Macapagal's) unequivocal support for the so-called antiterror drive," he said. "(The fact) that present structures in the Philippines are allowed for use by the US is another way of dispensing with the need for permanent bases."

Lozada said he planned to meet with other congressmen next week to discuss the MLSA before setting a meeting with executive officials.

"Since we don't have a final date of the implementation of the MLSA, I would like Congress to have exchanges of views with the executive so we would be given the chance to review it seriously and come up with a position," he said in a phone interview.

He said the House leadership had assigned his committee to "comment" on the agreement.

Lozada said that he and Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos attended the briefing conducted Thursday by Ople and Reyes, and that he told them of the need for "a more formal meeting with members of Congress."

Also seeking clarification on "certain gray areas" was Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra, who said in a statement: "It appears that we have acceded to become the US military's Wal-Mart in the Far East."

Mitra said he was concerned about whether US forces would be supervising their depots and storage areas and about the frequency of the visits of US ships and planes.

Vulcanizing shop

Militant groups expressed outrage at the newly signed agreement.

Millet Morante, secretary general of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, said the MLSA had transformed the country into "Uncle Sam's vulcanizing shop."

"It reduces us from a nation to a mere logistics venue for the US imperialist war," she said.

Windel Bolinget, secretary general of the Cordillera Peoples' Alliance, said leaders of Congress and of the Catholic Church had aired their sentiments against the MLSA but that Ms Macapagal "ignored the very real issues of nationalism and consciously violated the constitutional tenets of national patrimony and sovereignty."

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said the MLSA was an "appetizer" for a wider and more permanent basing arrangement: "It is a precursor to an accord that will eventually pave the way to the return of US military bases." *With reports from Donna S. Cueto, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Finally, justice for slain Gokongwei son-in-law

From page A1

The decision for the double death penalty, according to Rosales, was based on the narration of the star witness, Joseph Ferraer, whose house in Barangay Kaylaway, Nasugbu, was supposed to be used by the kidnap gang to hide their victim.

Defense lawyer Rolando Javier quickly criticized the verdict.

"I don't believe in that decision. It was solely based on Ferraer's statement when everybody knows that he is *palso* (fake)," he said.

But for Ong's family, the long wait is finally over.

"They are now happy that finally the kidnappers have been sentenced," Ong's lawyer, Frederick Young, said.

Young said Ferraer's testimony helped them piece together the plan for the kidnapping.

"Ferraer was very crucial to the investigation because he provided us with the information on how the kidnap gang planned on kidnapping Ong. And his statements were very credible as they could have only come from a person from inside the gang who was there at the planning stage," he explained.

'No comment'

A member of the Gokongwei family said they had no comment, saying, "we'll let the decision speak for itself."

Ong, a construction businessman who was then 26, had been married to Faith Gokongwei, the tycoon's daughter, for only six months when the kidnapping happened. Faith was pregnant when the tragedy struck. She and her twin sister, Hope, are the youngest children of Gokongwei.

Ong was kidnapped on Dec. 2, 1997 by armed men who forcibly took him at the compound of the family's ILO Construction in Barangay Darasa here. He was taken aboard his Pajero toward Lipa City, but he was killed an hour later when pursuing policemen caught up with them and traded fire with the kidnappers. Four kidnappers were slain and a fifth body turned out to be that of Ong. He died from 10 gunshot wounds.

The promulgation of the verdict was originally set on Nov. 15 but was reset for yesterday.

As pieced together during the trial, the kidnap gang led by Eduardo Hermano, alias Bobby Reyes, and Sammy Pansoy alias Bukbok, an alias Morales, Millano Muit, and Sergio Pancho Jr. went to Barangay Darasa aboard a Mitsubishi Lancer to kidnap Ong. Following them closely aboard a passenger bus were their companions, Manuel Alfon and Felipe Macalla.

Informant

Their informant in Ong's office, Romeo Pancho, had earlier told the group Ong would be on the project site at 2:30 p.m. that day.

After the kidnapping, the group took the Pajero as their getaway vehicle while Pancho was supposed to wait at the group's safehouse in Malvar town for a call to fetch them with their getaway vehicle. But on the way to Lipa City, a white pickup truck which turned out to be a police vehicle caught up with them. A firefight ensued and Muit and Hermano ran away. The remaining passengers of the Pajero, including Ong, were killed in the gun battle.

Hermano got away but policemen caught Muit.

Botched kidnap, rescue

Meanwhile Pancho, who was waiting in the safehouse, went to the house of Joseph Ferraer in Barangay Kaylaway of Nasugbu town, where the group earlier agreed to meet with the victim.

They learned the next day that the kidnapping and the rescue had both been bungled.

Pancho was arrested in Samar on Dec. 9, 1997 in a follow-up operation of the PNP Task Force Dragon while Ferraer surrendered to the police with the group's supposed get-away car. He later turned state witness.

The groups's firearm supplier Rolando Dequillo was also arrested. He later admitted to have bought the firearms from Danao as ordered by Eduardo Hermano.

So many suspects

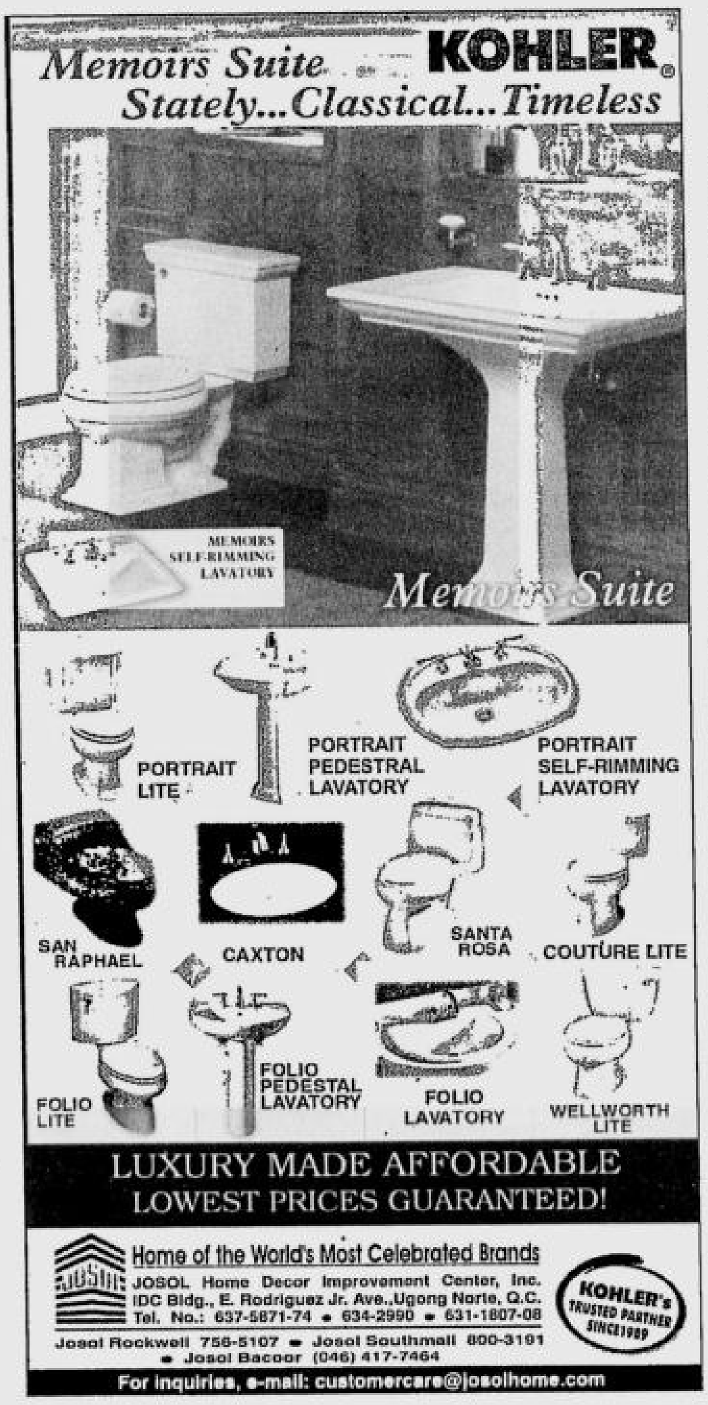
Muit, Pancho, Dequillo, Ferraer, Hermano, Romeo Pancho and the other gang members were charged with kidnapping for ransom with homicide on Dec. 16,1997. From there, it was a long road to justice.

According to Tanauan City prosecutor Benito Tercero, the case took almost five years because there were so many suspects involved.

Aside from the double death sentences, the kidnappers were also ordered to pay the heirs of the victim an indemnity of P50,000.

They were also ordered to pay actual damages amounting to P2,200,000 and moral damages of P200,000 with subsidiary imprisonment in case of insolvency.

Muit was also found to be guilty of robbery with violence and sentenced to a minimum of two-and-a-half years in prison to maximum of eight years. He was also directed to pay P18,000 in actual damages to Ong's family. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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'Hush-hush' signing explained

From page A1

from the media because Foreign Secretary Blas Ople had promised lawmakers that they would be briefed before the signing was made public.

"We tried to honor the commitment of the foreign secretary, so we had the signing (in the morning)," he said. "And we had to brief members of Congress as close as possible to the signing because as I said, we did not want the public to become aware before (then)."

"That is the reason for what we call haste—perhaps haste that was not intended," he added. "We wanted to fast-track the briefing of members of Congress because we didn't want the public to know about it (earlier)."

And no, Malacañang sees no need to explain to Vice President Teofisto Guingona why the MLSA was signed despite his objections.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday told Palace reporters that all of Guingona's objections were addressed in the final draft.

"I think the document is fairly easy to understand. It's available, and anybody can read the document," Bunye said when asked whether Malacañang would "explain" the circumstances of the agreement to Guingona.

"We had to insert certain provisions in response to the comments of (the) Vice President," he said. "We thought that all of these comments have been adequately addressed with the insertion of some provisions or the deletion of what are perceived to be objectionable."

Bunye said a number of provisions were included in the agreement to appease Guingona and other critics, such as:

- Prohibiting any US military base or permanent structure.
- Including non-military activities such as humanitarian missions and disaster relief operations in the applicability of the MLSA.
- Stating that all US storage areas and ports will remain under Philippine control at all times.
- Allowing the termination of the five-year agreement upon three months' notice.

"This is not something that is carved in stone," Bunye said. "This could be amended or abrogated if necessary."

Bunye disclaimed awareness of whether Guingona was promised that he would be shown the final draft before the signing.

He maintained that the MLSA did not need Senate ratification, saying it was a "low-level accounting agreement" on how to account for supplies and materials exchange during joint exercises and cooperative activities.

"We're sure that this will pass muster under any constitutional or legal standards," he said.

'Nothing fantastic'

Despite the elaborate plan to keep the MLSA signing secret, Reyes admitted that they still expected protests against the document described by critics as "unconstitutional" and a "treaty" that needed ratification by the Senate.

"We are also certain that there'll be objections," he said when asked if they expected protest rallies. "(But) there is nothing fantastic, nothing spectacular, about it."

Reyes said "the problem" was that "a lot of people are injecting more meaning into this agreement than it deserves."

"This is nothing but a logistics facilitating agreement," he said. "That's why it was signed at the level of J-5 (Armed Forces deputy chief for plans) and the representative of the commander in chief of the US Pacific Command."

Reyes also said he hoped that the issue would die down because the government had made sure that the interests of the Filipino people were protected.

"This (agreement) will definitely contribute to our fight against terrorism and our capability," he added.

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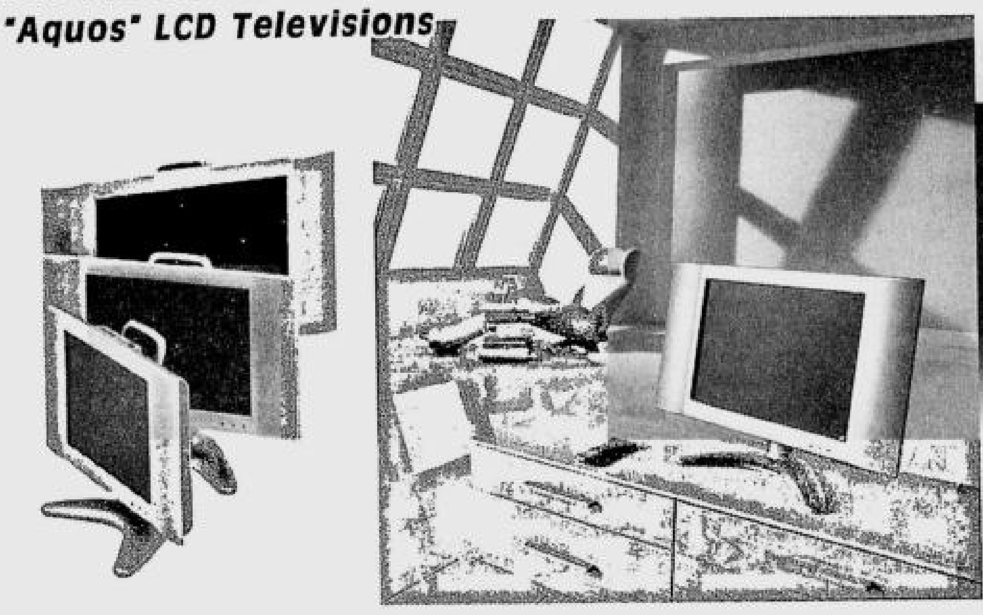

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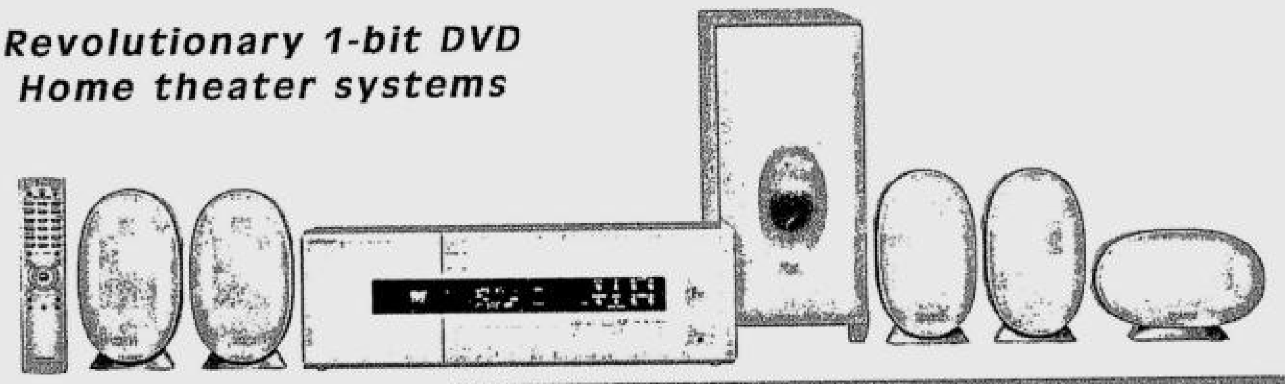

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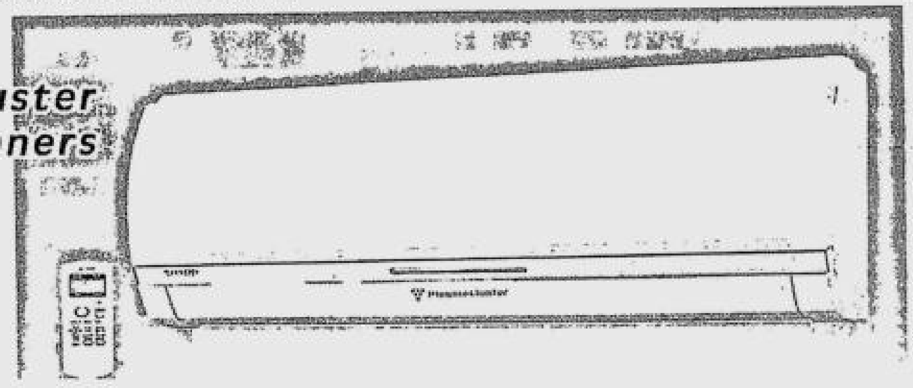

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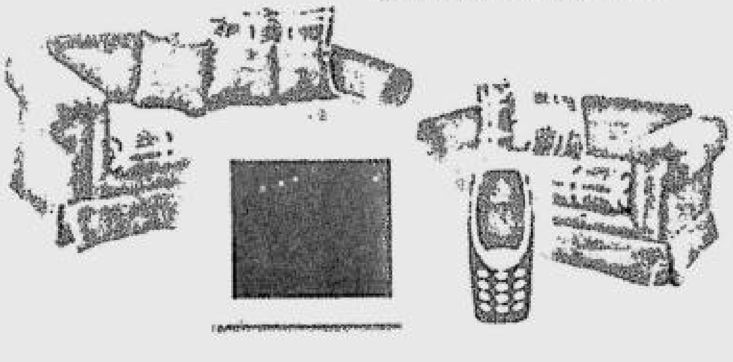

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Royal dog spared the death penalty

From page A1

ten two children in a park.

Anne's appearance in court made her the first British royal to answer a criminal charge since January 1649, when King Charles I was tried for treason and executed at the end of the English Civil War.

Dotty, Anne's two-year-old English bull terrier, was spared a death sentence that East Berkshire Magistrates Court could have imposed under Britain's draconian Dangerous Dog Act.

But her owner—the 52-year-old daughter of Queen Elizabeth II—was fined 500 pounds ($750), ordered to pay 250 pounds compensation to the boys, aged 7 and 12, and 148 pounds in court costs.

The princess was also told to keep Dotty on a leash at all times and to give her remedial training in the wake of the incident at Great Windsor Park, west of London, on April 1.

The princess is a seasoned dog owner, like her mother. The queen is famous for her fondness for Corgis.

The boys' family, which cannot be identified because of their young age, criticized District Judge Penelope Hewitt's ruling.

"We do not think justice has been done," they said in a statement. "The dog is still free and is a danger to society. Therefore the decision made today is neither moral nor just.

"Our children have been psychologically affected . . . They have become very fearful of all dogs and still have nightmares. If the dog had been put down it would have been recognition of this and helped our children psychologically."

The incident also came at an embarrassing time for the House of Windsor, after former royal valet George Smith alleged that he had been raped by a senior male courtier of Prince Charles.

The heir to the British throne has ordered an internal inquiry into the claim, which followed the Nov. 1 collapse of the trial of former royal butler Paul Burrell, charged with stealing items belonging to the late Princess Diana.

Burrell walked freed after the queen, who is celebrating 50 years on the throne this year, informed prosecutors that Burrell had told her that he had some of Diana's items in his possession for safekeeping.

Anne, 52, pleaded guilty just minutes after arriving in East Berkshire magistrates court in Slough, west of London, together with her husband, Royal Navy Commodore Tim Laurence and her two children Zara and Peter.

Laurence had also been charged, but the case against him was dropped Thursday as his wife entered her plea.

It was alleged that Dotty injured the two boys as they walked in a park on April 1—two days after the death of the Queen Mother.

Anne's lawyer Hugo Keith said his royal client regretted the incident.

"It is quite clear that her first action after putting Dotty in the boot (trunk) of the car was to apologize profusely for what had happened," Keith told the court as he recalled the incident.

"She and her husband offered assistance in getting medical attention, helping with getting the children's bicycles into the car and help with washing the bicycles. "Naturally, the Princess Royal and Commodore Laurence were concerned and as responsible dog keepers provided their own details which allowed the police to pursue their own inquiries." *AFP*

Gov't wants Meralco

From page A1

tors of Meralco and the Lopez Group shall nominate the remainder of five directors, which shall include the representatives of affiliates and partners of the Lopez Group such as Union Fenosa **(Spanish utility firm investing in Meralco-ED)**... (the) ROP and the Lopez Group shall each nominate one independent director who shall be counted among their respective allocations of directors.

"Likewise, for the term of this Agreement, the ROP shall, in consultation with the Lopez Group, designate the (a) chairman of the board; (b) President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO); (c) Chief Operating Officer (COO); (d) Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer (CFO); and (e) Corporate Secretary, for appointment by the Meralco Board of Directors."

The memorandum gave a deadline for the election of the new board and the appointment of the key corporate officers and executives 10 days from the execution of the memorandum of agreement, or at a latter date mutually agreed upon.

The memorandum also said that to address the financial challenges of Meralco and including the possible restructuring of Meralco, "with the end in view of restoring Meralco's financial viability and enabling ROP and the Lopez Group to eventually dispose of their respective interests in Meralco. It is understood that such a restructuring shall necessarily entail certain sacrifices by all the stakeholders of Meralco."

Gov't owns 25 percent

The government owns 25.52 percent of the Meralco shares and is the single biggest stockholder. First Holdings, a Lopez company, owns 17 percent; Union Fenosa, 9 percent, and the Meralco pension fund, 8 percent. The rest are distributed among investors, mainly foreign. Of the present 11-member board, the government holds three seats; independents, three; Meralco four, and Union Fenosa, one.

If the Lopezes, who are not in a strong position to avert the change proposed by the government because of their financial difficulties, agree to the plan, its takeover would be the second time the government grabs control of the company.

The first was in 1972 when President Marcos, exercising dictatorial powers, seized control of the company in a political vendetta with Eugenio Lopez Sr., through a front, the Meralco Foundation.

The foundation paid the Lopezes P10,000 out of a purchase price of P150,000,000 on a "pay when able" basis. This was virtual confiscation of Meralco assets that at the time included electricity generating facilities and plants.

The takeover plan of the Macapagal administration does not envisage any payment. There are no longer generating facilities to be taken over.

Since 1986, Meralco has converted into a power distribution company. The Macapagal administration's memorandum is a virtual takeover with the Lopez people swept away from key management position and by having a six-five majority. It is also being proposed in the ambience of a democratic system.

Emergency meeting

When the Lopez executives and family met President Macapagal and some Cabinet members in an emergency meeting last Friday, following the Supreme Court decision, the President said she did not know about the draft memorandum order prepared by Camacho and Vicente Perez, secretary of energy.

Camacho said it was the Lopezes who asked for the emergency meeting with the President.

The memorandum was taken up at that meeting in which the President said she had instructed a Cabinet group to discuss with the Lopezes the framework to prevent Meralco from caving under its crashing financial liabilities, including the refund of electricity charges as ordered by the Supreme Court ruling.

In the draft, the government "recognizes he importance of the survival of Meralco, whose business of electricity distribution is imbued with public interest and is of paramount importance of the national, social and economic development of the country."

While both Meralco and the government agree that Meralco's financial viability has to be maintained, it is in the method where they differ.

Gov't record

The important question is whether the government can do a better job than Meralco in executing a viability plan. The record of government is dismal in operating public utilities. From 1962 to 1972, Meralco was rated as the most efficient utility company and had the lowest rate on users in Asia.

During martial law, although Meralco continued to produce electricity, its efficiency deteriorated, and during the last two years of the Marcos regime, Meralco incurred losses.

Not a takeover . . .

Camacho has a less draconian version of the memorandum of agreement and did not consider its approach a "takeover." He said the memorandum was drafted after a series of discussions with Gabby Lopez and was framed using the Philippine National Bank rescue by the government as the template.

Under the PNB model, he said, the government agreed with Lucio Tan to name, with mutual consent, a team of professional managers not identified with Tan or the government.

According to Camacho, in an interview with the INQUIRER, Meralco officials talked to him as early as Oct. 21, to discuss the financial difficulties faced by Meralco over the delay in its application for a rate increase with the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Chronology

On Oct. 24, Gabby Lopez expressed fears of a possible adverse Supreme Court ruling of the refund case.

In the week from Nov. 4, President Macapagal, Secretary Vincent Perez, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and presidential spokerperson Rigoberto Tiglao, among others, talked about a possible solution to "maintain the viability" of Meralco and a framework for a formula.

On Nov. 8, Camacho said he and Gabby Lopez discussed the PNB model. Talks continued until Nov. 12, when Camacho wrote down the memorandum of agreement based on his version of talks with Gabby Lopez and faxed it to him.

His reaction was: "This is unacceptable. This is not what we have been talking about," Gabby Lopez said.

Peso slumps to 16-month low

From page A1

A blowout in its budget deficit prompted the government to set a new target—its fourth for 2002—of 5.6 percent of gross domestic product, or about P220 billion, on Thursday.

The government also cut its 2003 GDP growth forecast to a range of 4.2 percent to 5.2 percent from an earlier estimate of 5 percent to 5.5 percent.

Traders said yesterday's fall accelerated on the break of this week's low of 53.72, as more short dollar positions were covered.

Sentiment remains negative and remittances from overseas workers are not offering the expected seasonal support to the currency.

The peso could target 54 to a dollar, but dealers said there might be central bank intervention before that level.

Temporary level

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura expressed confidence that the current peso-dollar exchange rate was temporary, saying he expected overseas workers to remit more for their families' Christmas spending.

Even the central bank governor, however, could not deny that most of the market jitters were caused by Thursday's budget deficit blowout.

The government has announced that the deficit may hit P224 billion by year's end and P202 billion next year.

OFW remittances

Buenaventura said remittances from overseas workers should provide enough liquidity to address the supply crunch that, he explained, was causing the peso to fall, as many companies bearish on the fiscal sector were continuing to beef up their dollar holdings.

Traders, however, are not as confident, as most believe the peso may plunge to 54 next week.

The central bank reportedly intervened to prop up the local currency, selling as much as $20 million when the peso hit 53.77.

The supply, however, was not enough to address the growing demand for the greenback.

Yesterday's closing was only 94 centavos away from the peso's all-time closing low of 54.79 hit during the last days of the Estrada administration.

"The 54 level is very near and very doable next week, as most banks and companies opt to accumulate more dollars following the government's announcement of its new deficit targets," a trader with a foreign bank said.

Another trader added that while the market had already discounted the 10-month deficit of P187.6 billion, most players bought back the dollars they sold on Wednesday when they realized the adverse scenarios next year.

'A kind of desperation'

"The initial reaction to the deficit announcement last Thursday was to sell dollars owing to the usual sell-on-news practice. But when the market evaluated the full impact of the new targets for 2003, people again scrambled for dollars for fear that the fiscal sector would continue to deteriorate," a trader with a local bank said.

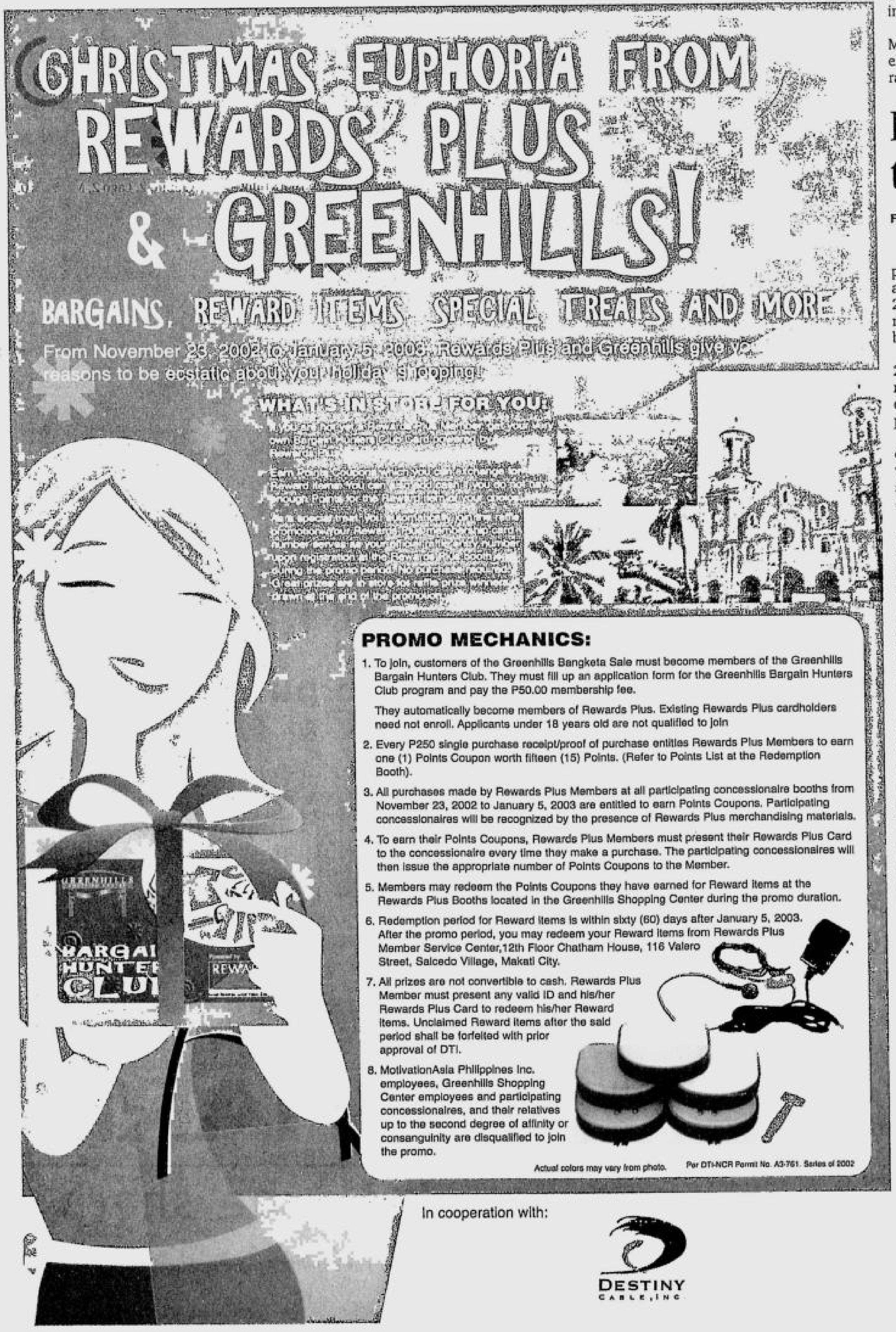
The market, according to traders, is wary that the huge borrowing that the government will have to resort to next year will raise interest rates, jack up consumer prices and erode further investor confidence in the Philippines.

These factors will lead to a much weaker peso in the coming months, they warned.

The government's announcement that it would push through with the sale of dollar-linked bonds or instruments that could provide investors a way to preserve the value of the peso in their books made the financial markets even more suspicious and doubtful about the local currency's prospects.

"It signaled a kind of desperation," one trader said. "Why would the government sell these bonds when it was confident the peso would recover and at a time when overseas remittances usually peak?"

The government said it would sell as much as P10 billion worth of two- and three-year dollar-linked bonds in the next two weeks.



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Jockey Browne given 20-year ban

LONDON—Controversial former jockey and trainer Dermot Browne was given a 20-year ban by the Jockey Club, British horse racing's governing body, here on Thursday. In October, accusations made by Browne formed part of a BBC documentary into corruption in British horse racing. *AFP*

DEC. 1-8 TILT LURES 3,500

Nat'l Youth Games to help revive Palawan tourism

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Using sports to attract tourists and investors is one of the reasons Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair Eric Buhain chose Puerto Princesa City as the venue for the 4th Philippine National Youth Games (Batang Pinoy).

Buhain arrived in the city on Wednesday to meet with newly installed Mayor Edward Hagedorn and the games' working committees.

He also went around the sites for the different events.

"Palawan had some bad publicities in the past months because of the Abu Sayyaf incident last year. I believe that sports could boost its tourism industry," Buhain said.

According to him, this sports event could project a positive image for the province and the city.

"Not only athletes will visit the province but also their parents, relatives and some local government officials from different cities and provinces," he added.

He assures the success of the week-long Batang Pinoy that will start on Dec.1.

The preparations for the Batang Pinoy shifted to higher level with the creation of the Batang Pinoy Task Force, which mobilized the different committees that will take care of the upcoming event here from Dec. 1 to Dec.8.

Buhain said he was "very surprised" by the big development of the repairs being done at the Palawan Sports Complex where majority of the games will be held.

"Actually, my primary concerns really here are the refurbishment of the track oval and the security. So far, I am impressed with what I see now compared to what I saw when I first came here last September," he added.

He likewise lauded the efforts and cooperation of the city government for the staging of the upcoming event.

Hagedorn expressed concern for the security of the delegates to the upcoming event where, he said, the "most important thing here is the security measures."

"We need the support of everybody here because what we are going to protect here are kids. If these are elder ones, it will not be that hard, so we have to double our efforts," Hagedorn said.

About 3,500 elementary athletes from different local government units will participate in 21 events.

The sports meet now includes golf, judo, karate and arnis.

Since the Batang Pinoy started four years ago, Buhain has served as the coach for a swimming team but this is his first after assuming the PSC chair.

While he is PSC chair, Buhain targets to have 34 to 38 events, or the same number of events the Philippines is vying for in international sports competition. *Jofelle Tesorio and Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

BUHAIN

HAGEDORN

Batang Pinoy preparations well in place

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain is satisfied with the preparations being undertaken by Puerto Princesa City and Palawan officials regarding their hosting of the 4th Philippine National Youth Games from Dec. 1-8.

Newly installed Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn and Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, according to Buhain, are leaving nothing to chance with regards to the success of the Batang Pinoy, the PSC's annual multi-sports program for elementary school-aged athletes who this year are expected to reach over 3,500.

"We are very satisfied with the work being done by the city and province in ensuring that the facilities will be in top condition in time for the Batang Pinoy," said Buhain.

Batang Pinoy, featuring 21 events, is scheduled primarily at the city's sports complex inside Santa Monica Heights.

Health and security have also become a priority concern for the Batang Pinoy with both Hagedorn and Reyes stressing they are in control of the situation. Hagedorn also allayed fears of a dengue outbreak with the City Health Office issuing a clearance on the issue.

As to the venues, Hagedorn said: "We are fast-tracking the completion of the venues like the track oval [main stadium] which is now almost finished with round-the-clock work."

"Puerto Princesa is a very peaceful and safe place. Our security concern actually [is from the outside]," was Hagedorn's reply to queries on security. "We are taking all steps to ensure the safety of participants. Health and sanitation requirements are also [ensured] at billeting acilities."

Palawan suffered a snag in its tourism industry when Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnapped foreigners in Dos Palmas, a resort located south of the island province, about two years ago.

But with the Batang Pinoy, Hagedorn and Reyes are hopeful the image of the island that is a tourist draw will be "back to normal."

Aces edge Kings, near semis

ALASKA'S Jon Ordonio (left) and Ginebra's Mark Caguioa eye the ball during the Selecta All-Filipino Cup last night. Alaska won, 79-75. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

ALASKA scored a come-from-behind 79-75 victory over Barangay Ginebra, keeping its hopes for an outright semifinals seat alive last night in the Selecta PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Behind, 58-73, the Aces poured the heat in the final seven minutes of play as the Kings simply collapsed.

Alaska's fourth win in seven games was a fitting birthday gift to team owner Wilfred Steven Uytengsu, who with his wife cheered lustily when the Aces, bannered by Don Allado, Ali Peek and Rodney Santos, started to make their move.

"Some years back, I remember my team winning a game on my birthday. I'm 41 and still kicking. I guess, we're just lucky," said Uytengsu.

Mark Caguioa also hastened Ginebra's downfall when he lost the ball three times in succession at the height of Alaska's rally.

Down by two at 75-77, 16 seconds remaining, Ginebra had a chance to tie but Caguioa lost the ball to Santos while driving to the hoop.

Ali Peek then sank his third straight free throw off an Eric Menk foul, sealing Ginebra's doom.

"The win makes me feel good because the guys are starting learn the things it takes to win games," said coach Tim Con "Rodney did a good job Caguioa and Don on Eric. Those guys were killing us."

Ginebra, which dropped to 3- controlled the third quarter as forced the Aces to toil for thei shots.

In the second game, Sa Miguel Beer beat Talk N Text, 8 79, in overtime.

Dennis U. Eroa

Scores:

ALASKA 79—Peek 22, Arigo 16, Duremdes 15, Allado 13, Feihl 6, Duat 5, Santos 2.

GINEBRA 75—Limpot 24, Caguioa 22, Menk 9, Helterbran 8, Tolomia 3, David 3, Walkvist Calpito 2, Lago 2, Magtulis 0.

Quarters: 19-16, 39-36, 52-65, 79-75

Coseteng still upbeat despite certain victory

SUPERSTAR Caltex-Havoline-Autoplus driver Jody Coseteng tries to cement his status as one of history's best in circuit driving when he formalizes his Driver of the Year award in the SVI Challenge at the Subic Raceway today and tomorrow.

So far away is Coseteng from his closest pursuers in the premier super saloon category that he can skip the circuit's final 13th and 14th rounds in Subic, and still run away with the title with plenty to spare.

But excellence is Coseteng's way of life.

"Of course, I want to end the series with a bang. There is no reason why I shouldn't treat the final two rounds with the same consistency as in my past races," said Coseteng, who is all pumpe up to bag his third Driver of th Year plum.

All eyes are also on Coseteng fellow Caltex drivers Peewe Mendiola and team captain Osca Aguilar. Even Nilo Pascoguin an Mikko David are likewise capabl of pulling off a couple of surprises.

Mendiola, an eye surgeon, lead the novice division and is lookin forward to tightening his grip of th leadership en route to a runaw win, while Aguilar, famed father superstar motocross rider Glenn, is close second to Don Pastor in th Class C division.

Montaña targets Welcoat's clean mark

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat	3	0
Blu	3	1
LBC	3	1
Montaña	3	1
ICTSI	3	2
Dazz	1	2
Cheeseballs	1	4
Sunkist	0	3

GAMES TODAY *(Tarlac State University Gym)*
2 p.m.—Welcoat vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Dazz vs Blu Dishwashing

By Dennis U. Eroa

MONTAÑA Pawnshop takes a crack at Welcoat's unbeaten mark today as the PBL Challenge Cup takes its show to the Tarlac State University Gym.

The Paintmasters hug the solo leadership with three straight victories but winning their fourth may not be easy as the Jewels are enjoying a good start since entering the league three years ago.

"We hope to keep our winning ways. The game against Welcoat is a true test of the team's character and I am confident that my men will be able to pass the test," said Montaña coach Ronnie Dojillo.

The Welcoat-Montaña tiff is set at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. game between Blu and Dazz Dishwashing.

The Jewels share second spot with the LBC-Batangas Blades and two-time Cebu Basketball Federation champions Blu Detergent Kings.

Jenkins Mesina, who with FedEx starter Ren Ren Ritualo powered the San Beda Red Cubs to countless national and NCAA titles, is playing heads-up basketball for the Armando Quibod-owned franchise.

Six-foot-six Billy Mamaril, son of ex-Ginebra beanpole Romulo, Jon Dan Salvador, playmaker Egay Echavez, NCAA scoring machine Sunday Salvacion, Gary David and Jan Alfad will also play big roles for Montaña.

Welcoat, now being coached by Leo Austria, boasts Rommel Adducul, Eddie Laure, Ariel Capus, Ronald Tubid and Paul Artadi.

The Paintmasters like to play good defense.

Arms Show II hosts seminar

THE "2002 Defense & Sporting Arms Show Part II," on Nov. 27 to Dec. 1 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, will host a seminar to be conducted by the Philippine National Shooting Association.

Dubbed "Target Shooting: A Great Way to Become Involved in A Great Sport, the seminar is from 1-2:30 p.m. and will be conducted by Orlando Marquez, head coach of the PNSA-PSC Grassroots Level Development Program.

Organized by the Association of Firearms and Ammunition Dealers of the Philippines (Afad) and TradeShow International Inc. (TSI), the 2002 Defense & Sporting Arms Show is the biggest and most prestigious exposition of its kind.

Leongson eyes another pro open category win

SAIPAN Open motocross champion Ernie Leongson of Shell-Yamaha tries to finish the 2002 WG&A Motocross Super Series scheduled this weekend the same way he started it–with a bang.

With the overall title safely tucked under his belt, Leongson seeks another victory in the centerpiece pro open category to wrap up the overall championship before an expected big crowd at the Army Adventure Zone in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig.

Leongson, who rose to prominence with a runaway triumph in 1994, has won five of the previous six legs to take a commanding lead in the overall standings against seven-time champion Jovie Saulog aand two other teammates.

The multi-titled rider from Taytay, Rizal has 204 points against Saulog's 169 points based on the 20-17-15-13-11 scoring system.

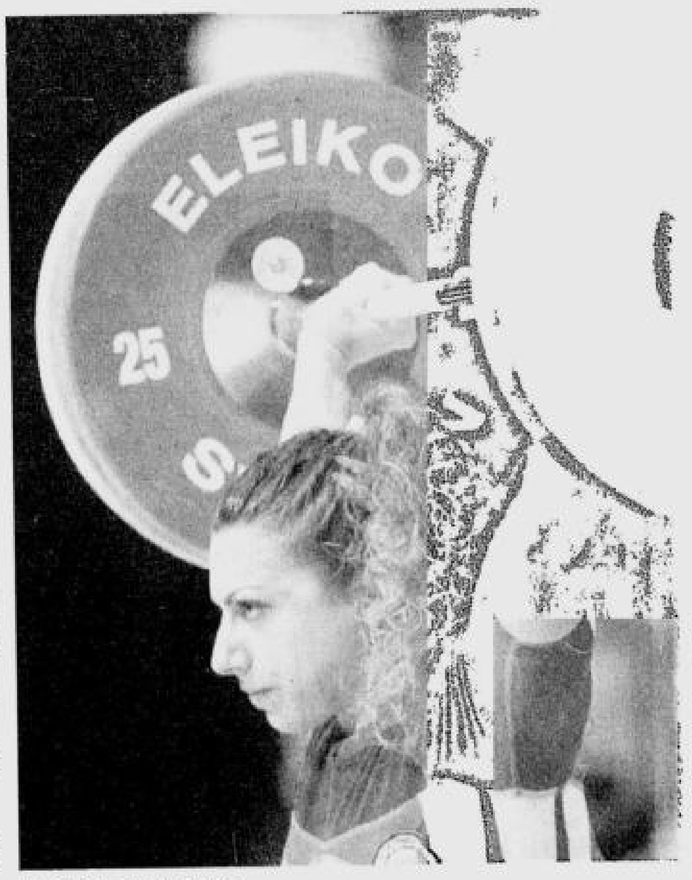
"*Gaya ng dati, gagawin ko lahat ng aking makakaya para manalo uli,*" said Leongson, who will also bag his second "Rider of the Year" award in eight years.

"*Maganda ang suporta sa team kaya maganda ang resulta natin ngayon.*"

Saulog, the country's winningest rider, is also expected to wrap up the title in the equally exciting pro 125 category.

A son of a former race jockey, Saulog is enjoying a 25-point lead over Leongson in the pro 125 class, 222-197.

Three other Shell-Yamaha riders–Pepo Rubi, Sam Tamayo and Donark Yuzon—are also favored to capture the the titles in their respective categories and complete Shell-Yamaha's domination in the annual event.



WORLD RECORD
Greece's Anastasia Tsakiri makes an attempt in the snatch 63 kg category during the 15th Women's World Weightlifting Championships in Warsaw, Thursday. Tsakiri won a silver medal in total with 240 kg and set a world record of 136kg in clean and jerk.

Victorino waylays Arcilla, gains final

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MATCHES TODAY *(Center Court)*
1 p.m.--Arevalo vs Kim
3 p.m.--Lee vs Santos

SOMETHING unexpected happened on the way to the PCA Open men's final.

Unlike what everybody predicted, top seed and overwhelming favorite Johnny Arcilla isn't going to be there.

He was ambushed along the way by a young assassin named Joseph Victorino who went away with a cold-blooded 6-2, 7-5 victory for his first championship stint before a stunned crowd at the Philippine Columbian Association indoor courts.

Although he has beaten the country's top netter once early this year, the 19-year-old Victorino only magnified his steady rise and could end up the Philippines' No. 1 if he wins over second seed Adelo Abadia tomorrow.

Abadia, 25, brushed off Niño Salvador, 6-0, 6-1, in the other semifinal match to return to the final. He lost last year's title to Arcilla, whom he picked as "more dangerous" than Victorino.

"I just remained patient all the way," said Victorino, who employed a tedious baseline game which Arcilla can't stand. "On the occasions he surged to the net, I play along and engaged him pretty well."

Aping his idol, world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt, the 5-foot-8 Victorino poured his heart out breaking Arcilla and repulsing the defending champion's uprising late in the second set where Arcilla tied the score at 5-5 after trailing, 2-5.

Victorino, who suffered cramps after the match, said it was he who felt the jitters when Arcilla started to make some moves. "But I was really prepared for him, I trained very hard for this tourney," said Victorino, who never reached beyond second round during the past two years.

Arcilla, who has won six of their seven previous matches, admitted that Victorino played better than him and had no regrets over losing the title.

Looking to win his second title of the year after ruling the Gen. Santos City tournament last September, Victorino is holding a 4-2 edge over Abadia in their head-to-head.

But the PCA shell courts have always been Abadia's surface of choice, something the Zamboanga del Sur native hopes would work for him.

"He is young, but I will be more scared if Arcilla won," said Abadia, who like Arcilla and Victorino, is a member of the RP Davis Cup team.

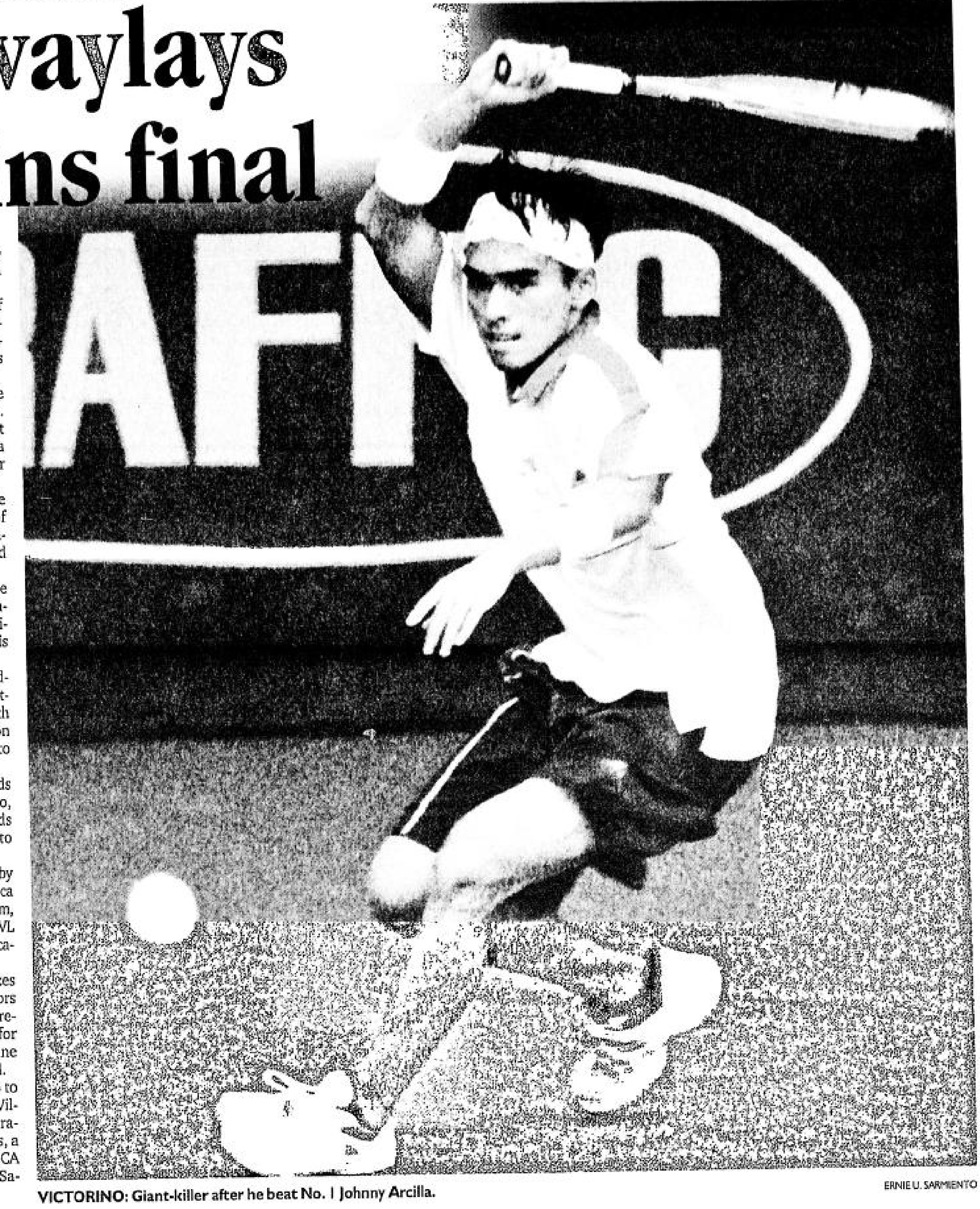
In the doubles action, defending champions Arcilla and partner Michael Mora downed sixth seed Koreans Song Heyong Keon and Lim Bea Young, 6-3, 6-1, to reach the semifinals.

They will face fourth seeds Alexander Lazaro and Victorino, who rallied past seventh seeds Antonio Sagansay and Luisito Clores, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-3.

The tournament is supported by Dunlop, Accel, Philippine Star, Coca Cola, San Miguel Corp., PBCom, Photokina, Equitable-PCI, PVL Restaurant-Little Lawrence, Copacabana and Trans Asia Power.

Meanwhile, big raffle prizes await the players and spectators alike on Sunday's awarding ceremonies. Prizes include trip for two to Hong Kong via Philippine Airlines from Las Palmas Travel.

Also at stake are trip for two to Boracay via SeaAir from Sun Village Resorts, a Condura refrigerator from Concepcion Industries, a 21-inch Sony TV from the PCA and gift checks from David's Salon, Accel and Dunlop.



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

VICTORINO: Giant-killer after he beat No. 1 Johnny Arcilla.

Spanish star Garcia joining Johnnie Walker golf

SPANISH star Sergio Garcia and Britain's Nick Faldo will be joining defending champion Retief Goosen and British Open champion Ernie Els in one of the strongest fields ever assembled in Australia to contest the Johnnie Walker classic, Asia-Pacific's premier golf tournament, at Lake Karrinyup Country club in Perth, Western Australia, Feb. 13-16.

Diageo, which owns and distributes Johnnie Walker, and International Management Group said the young and multi-talented Garcia will be making his second appearance in the Johnnie Walker Classic after finishing third behind Goosen last year.

Faldo, one of the highest profile golfers of the last decade, is another former winner returning to the Johnnie Walker Classic, now on its 12th year.

"We are delighted that Sergio and Nick have agreed to compete in next year's Johnnie Walker Classic. In their own ways, both represent the "Keep Walking" spirit that lies at the heart of the Johnnie Walker Global Brand director.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA, 9 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), ESPN, LA Clippers vs Denver Nuiggets, 11:30 a.m., Solar Sports
NBA Inside Stuff, 6:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports
POOL: World Pool Masters 2002, 12 noon (r), ESPN
Rack 'Em Up, 3 p.m. (r), ESPN
GOLF: World Ladies Match Play Championship, 1 p.m. (r), ESPN, 5 p.m. and 10 p.m., Star Sports
Tiger Skins Golf 2002, 7 p.m., Star Sports
BOWLING: Aviva Asian Bowling Tour, 4 p.m., ESPN

Woods 8 shots off Japanese leader

MIYAZAKI, Japan–Tiger Woods shot a three-under par 68 Friday but was left rueing a slew of missed putts as he slipped eight shots adrift of early second round leader Koname Yokoo in the 200 million yen ($1.67 million dollar) Dunlop Phoenix tournament.

Yokoo carded a flawless six-under-par 65 on the narrow tree-lined fairways of Phoenix Country Club at Mizayaki, southern Japan, to stand 11-under par midway through Asia's richest tournament.

The Japanese star was four shots ahead of nearest pursuers England's Justin Rose, Zaw Moe of Myanamar and Spanish star Sergio Garcia.

Woods was three shots better than his level-par 71 in the first round and had no bogeys in his second round but was left frustrated as he missed a string of birdie chances from inside 15 feet.

As driving rain was replaced by sunshine, Woods shook off his misadventures of Thursday to shave the hole with makeable birdie putts on his opening two holes on Friday.

Woods struck a towering seven iron to within 10 feet on the par-three 180 yard third hole but was again left shaking his head in frustration as the putt nudged the right lip but stayed above ground.

After playing partner Shingo Katayama laid up with his second shot up on the long 557-yard par-five fourth hole, Tiger unleashed a three-wood second shot from a hanging lie in the left rough to the front edge of the green. *AFP*

WOODS

Villamayor holds chess simul today

GRANDMASTER Bong Villamayor holds a 20-board simultaneous chess exhibition at the Checkmate Cyberchess Cafe, at the Mezzanine (above Max's Restaurant) of One Joroma Place along Congressional Avenue in Quezon City at 6 tonight.

Chess enthusiasts will get a rare chance to test the mettle of Villamayor, a veteran Olympian and a former World Chess Championship qualifier. The 35-year-old chesser is the only Filipino who holds the distinction of snaring the grandmaster title in just four months after posting lofty finishes at two Vung Tau GM tournaments, the Asian 3.2a Zonals and the Equitable-PCI GM Chess Classic two years ago.

But Villamayor's chess ability doesn't end there. What he practices, he also teaches. After a one-year stint as a national juniors and kiddies coach of Singapore, he now brings home his mentoring and teaching expertise to Checkmate Cyberchess Cafe. Villamayor will also be holding a series clinics and seminars at the said venue starting next month.

For inquiries, visit the Checkmate Cyberchess or contact George and Rose Jimenez at 922-0309, (0917) 896-2691.

Wacnang top breeder, earns ₱4M

REP. Lawrence Wacnang of Kalinga Province took the lead early on and never relinquished it as he bagged the prestigious Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) Breeder of the Year 2002 plum Thursday night at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Wacnang's bet, EDL Crowsland Excellence I amassed a whopping total of 19 points in four derbies. He received the P400,000 prize courtesy of Optimum Property Management Inc. (OPMI) and a huge trophy from LGBA.

After bagging the solo championship in the first leg last Oct. 23 with his precision-cutting Kelso Roundheads trained in the mountains of Tabuk, Kalinga Province, Wacnang maintained the upper hand with consistent performances. his overall record: 19 wins and six losses.

Ucap stalwarts Blandy Tolentino and Pol Estrellado (San Pablo Heat II) and Batangas breeders Edwin Aranes and Raffy.Campos (Ed) shared the runner-up honors worth P50,000 each. They finished with 17 points apiece. Edmund Yasay (Wild Harvester) posted 16 points.

Mike Buendia of Batangas, last year's Breeder of the Year (Buenas Dias Tagapo I) and Luis Villa of Quezon Province (Hermosa) shared the championship in final leg Thursday night after posting six wins apiece.

2 derbies up at Roligon

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit, the biggest cockfighting center in the country with a seating capacity of 15,000, presents two special 4-cock derbies next week.

The first 4-cock derby is scheduled on Nov. 25, with veteran derbyist Emil Chua of Makati (Concrete Breaker) as host.

The second 4-cocker is slated on Nov. 27, to be promoted by Lito Alcantara of Rizal (LA 939).

Both derbies are staking a top prize of P300,000 with an entry fee of P10,000.

Submission of weights is on the day of the fight, from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. Interested parties, call 833-2275 or 833-1638.

JOHNNY VILLENA

PARAGUA: Still in title-hunt.

WORLD YOUTH CHESS

Paragua recovers, rises to 8th

FILIPINO Mark Paragua again showed his capability to bounce back, besting Mikita Mayorau of Belarus in the eighth round and staying in the title hunt of the World Youth Chess Championships 2002 in Heraklio, Crete, Greece.

Recovering from his defeat to French Matthiew Cornette in the seventh round, Paragua boosted his total to 5.5 points and climbed to a share of 8th to 12 places in the boys' 18 and under division.

National Master Roderick Nava, who led Mapua Institute of Technology to this year's NCAA champiosnhip, has 4.5 points in the same group after drawing his last two matches against Argentina's Lucas Liascovich and Russia's Alexander Utnasunov, respectively.

Other results saw Letran's Vic Neil Villanueva yield to Dmytro Kononeko of Ukraine in the boys' 14 and under and University of the East's Nelson Mariano III bow to David Recuero Guerrra of Spain.

Villanueva and Mariano stayed at 4.5 points.

Loren Brigham Laceste of Sto.Tomas, La Union, drew with Mehyr Vladyslav in the boys' under-10 and was at 4 points. *Roy Luarca*

MCA chessfest invites 80 teams

ABOUT 80 chess teams have been invited to join the initial launching of the Metropolitan Chess Association (MCA) Amateur League set to reel off at 8 a.m. on Dec. 7 and 8 at the Lotus Garden Hotel located at Padre Faura corner Mabini Street in Malate, Manila.

Considered one of the biggest local team competitions in the country, the two-day event offers more than P150,000 cash prize for the Top 10 finishers with the champion getting the lion's share of P150,000 plus trophy.

Early entries include Toyota Autoparts Phils., Matridette Enterprise and DAR, under the auspices of Ms Violeta Bonilla, DTI, DPWH, PCSO, municipalities of Quezon City, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa and Meycauayan, provinces of Bataan, Ilocos Norte, Vigan, Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija and Laguna.

For details, call MCC secretariat at 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Cordero, RP archers rip 4 records

FILIPINO archers did not bring home any medal from the Busan Asian Games, but they broke four national records and tied mainly through the efforts of youthful Marvin Cordero.

Cordero, a 20-year-old from Dasmariñas, Cavite, who was only in his third international stint in Busan, South Korea, cracked two individual RP marks–single Fita round and the single 90-meter distance–and, together with Christian Cubilla and Florante Matan, eclipsed the single Fita team standard.

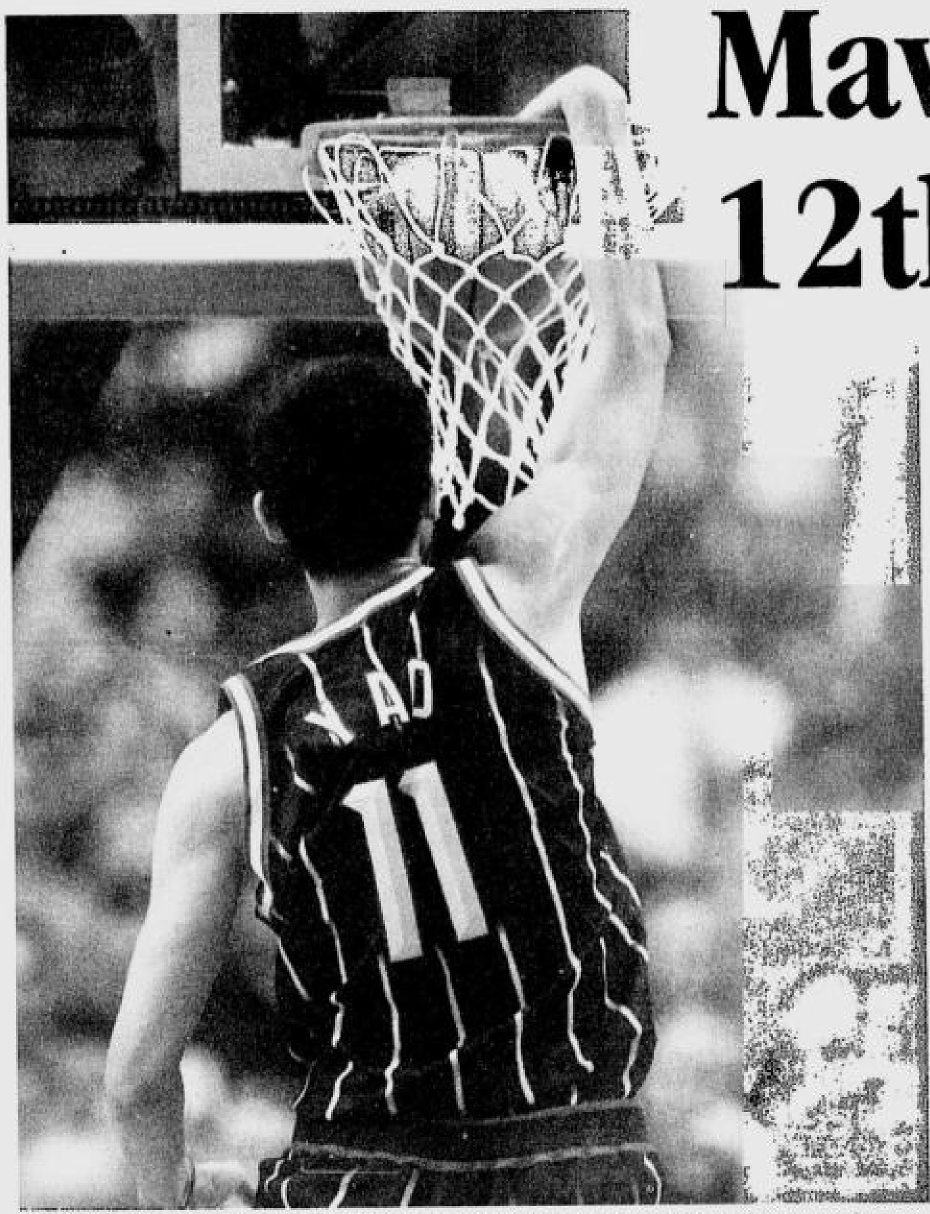
Cordero collected 1316 points to erase the 1276 single Fita round mark set by Oscar Briones in 1999 and tallied 313 points to wipe out the 302 single 90-meter distance posted by Syd Nerickzon Fraginal last year in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

Cordero, Cubilla and Matan combined for 3783 points to better the 3773 team norm established by Clint Sayo, Briones and Cubilla when they won the gold medal in the 1997 Southeast Asian Games in Jakarta.

Cubilla produced the other national mark in the 18-arrow Olympic Round elimination match, scoring 166 points to erase the 165 tallied by Briones in 1998 in Bangkok.

Sydney Olympic veteran Jennifer Chan, holder of the RP 50- and 30-meter distance marks of 332 and 352, respectively, tied the 13-year-old national single 60-meter distance record of Joann Tabanag by firing 330 points.

Cordero, who became the first Filipino male archer to surpass the 1300-point barrier, also broke SEAG records in the Fita round (1297 by Indonesia's Kuwantoro), 90-meter distance (302 by Fraginal) and 70-meter distance (330 by Indonesia's Mawi) with 1316, 313 and 333, respectively.



HOUSTON Rockets' Yao Ming shows his power with this one-handed slam. Yao scored a career-high 30 points but failed to stop the Dallas Mavericks from posting their 12th straight win, 103-90, in the NBA. AFP

Mavs clinch 12th victory

DALLAS—Michael Finley scored 28 points to overcome a 30-point effort from Yao Ming and guide the Dallas Mavericks to their 12th consecutive win, a 103-90 victory over the Houston Rockets Thursday.

Dirk Nowitzki added 24 points and nine rebounds for the Mavericks (12-0), who set a franchise record for successive wins at any time during a season and posted the fourth best start in NBA history.

Finley had six three-pointers among his haul of 28. Only the Boston Celtics's 14-0 start to the 1957-58 season and the record mark of 15-0 set by Washington in 1948-49 and matched by Houston in 1993-94 are better than the Dallas streak.

Yao had by far his best game as a pro. The 7-foot-6 Chinese, the first overall pick in the NBA draft, had a career high in points and rebounds with 16 while also playing 33 minutes, the most he has appeared in any game to date.

The Rockets, however, slipped to 6-4 despite Yao's 10-for-12 shooting from the field and his 10 of 12 free throws.

Dallas coach Don Nelson also tied a personal mark for consecutive wins. His Milwaukee Bucks in 1981-82 won 12 in a row.

Steve Nash added 15 points and eight assists for the Mavericks while Eduardo Najera contributed 14 points and 11 rebounds. Steve Francis added 22 points for the Rockets while Glen Rice chipped in with 16.

In Seattle, Bonzi Wells had 16 points and nine rebounds to lead the Portland Trail Blazers past the SuperSonics 89-85.

Rasheed Wallace added 13 points and seven rebounds for Portland, which got back to the .500 mark at 6-6. Gary Payton had 22 points and 14 assists for Seattle (8-4) while Predrag Drobnjak collected 18 points.

Brent Barry had 14 points, five rebounds and seven assists for the Trail Blazers. *Reuters*

Spring Cooking Oil banners NBL caging

THE NATIONAL Basketball League (NBL) holds a weeklong tournament on Dec. 2-7 at the Tinga gym in Taguig, Rizal, before it goes regional next year.

Six teams will see action in the cagefest, according to national pistol shooting champion and NBL vice president for operations Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla.

Five of these are Cebu City's M Lhuillier, coached by Yayor Alcoseba, and Mandaue City's Kwarta Padala, mentored by Eddie Ybanez, and both owned by Cebu sportsman Michel Lhuillier, Forward Taguig, coached by Danny Gavierez and owned by Mayor Freddie Tinga; Mandaluyong's Wang's Ball Club, coached by Jerome Cueto and owned by Alex Wang; and reigning national champion Spring Cooking Oil of Malabon, coached by Tito Palma and owned by Tac Padilla.

The sixth team will either be Hartmann Seigle managed by Mike Ganglani, Davao's Marsman Drysdale managed by Mario Bongayal or Jimmy Mariano's Uratex team.

Anthony Sulit will be the tournament director of the NBL's preview event.

Sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines, the NBL will hold two legs of the First Conference–the first in Cebu City starting on Feb. 2 and the second in Metro Manila starting on March 2 next year.

M. Lhuillier, Kwarta Padala, Forward Taguig, Wang's BC and Spring Cooking Oil will play in the first leg. The sixth team will be selected from among Marsman Drysdale, Hartmann Seigle, Cotabato City, Ozamiz City and Osaka Iridology of the Guardo Group of Companies.

For more details, interested teams may contact Sulit (09189243139), coach Palma (09175002124), coach Alcoseba (09172534619) or coach Gavierez (09178974797).

Delasin fires 70, 3 shots off pacesetters

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida—Dorothy Delasin shot a three-under-par 70 to remain within three shots off co-leaders Sweden's Annika Sorenstam and South Korean star Se Ri Pak at the season-ending one million dollar ADT Championship.

The ailing Pak and Sorenstram carded identical five-under-par 67s.The LPGA's tour championship represents Sorenstam's final chance to add to one of the best seasons in history. The Swedish superstar has won 10 times while setting an earnings record with nearly $2.65 M.

Like Rosales, Grace Park and Beth Bauer also shots identical 70s, two strokes better than Juli Inkster and Rachel Teske of Australia.

Another Filipina campaigner Jennifer Rosales was seven shots behind the leader with a 74.

"I mean, I don't have any words for her," said Pak, who can't eat properly due to an infected tooth.

American Meg Mallon, who also has a share of the lead, did have words for Sorenstam. Among them were incredible and impressive.

Those would apply to a player trying to become only the second in history to win 11 LPGA Tour events in a season, two off the record Mickey Wright set in 1963. Sorenstam is the first to win at least eight in consecutive years since Nancy Lopez in 1978-79.

But Sorenstam also has claimed a pair of international tournaments, giving her 12 titles worldwide in one calendar year. Wright won exclusively on the American tour during her record-setting season.

"I've studied our history and know what Mickey Wright did and what Kathy Whitworth did," Mallon said. "And those years where they won 10, 11, 13 times in a year, they were playing against 20, 30 people. That's pretty impressive, what she's doing." All three co-leaders were impressive Thursday. Mallon had an eagle, five birdies and two bogeys; Sorenstam collected an eagle, four birdies and a bogey; and Pak signed for seven birdies and two bogeys. *AFP*

Samsung putting on

ANOTHER 10 tickets to the grand finals are up for grabs as the Samsung Putting Challenge resumes today and tomorrow (Nov. 23-24) at the well-kept Riviera in Silang, Cavite.

The top two lowest scorers in the men's division and the winner in the junior, ladies and seniors categories each day will join qualifiers from the already completed Aguinaldo and Canlubang legs and four more in the next two months.

Dottie Ardina, the 8-year-old jungolf sensation who is now the world's best in her division, heads the initial batch of 20 finalists.

The Samsung tourney is part of a three-in-one event dubbed as the Samsung DigitAll Golf Challenge. Part of the entry fee will go to the jungolf development program of the club. Other sponsors are Taylor-Made adidas, Gatorade, Maxfli, Fila, Custom Clubmakers, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers.

Samsung and Riviera have agreed to open the tourney to the public, also giving as many golfers as possible the chance to come close to winning a brand-new car.

All players who will score an ace on the designated hole will also advance to the finals' side-event where the car will be up for grabs as the prize for a hole-in-one using the putter.

The putting competition will be played at the practice green beside the first tee of the Langer course and driving range over a 9-hole course set up by the organizing Professional Sports Management Group.

Founder's Cup unwraps today

THE FOUNDER'S Cup, the annual member-guest invitational of the Orchard Golf and Country Club, fires off today at the club's Palmer and Player courses with 200 teams fighting it out for prizes totaling P2.5 million. Tee-off starts at 6 a.m.

Club officials Vicente Santos and Conrad Benitez, golfing mayors Homer Sakilayan (Imus) and Raymundo del Rosario (Tanza) and organizing committee head Luis Villa-Abrille will be leading the full-packed field taking aim at the variety of valuable prizes ranging from Nissan cars, appliance, home, kitchen and entertainment showcases.

Last year's winning member, Nestor Sanares, is bringing in a new guest partner in Florencio Lim.

At the end of the 36-hole event tomorrow, two players will be driving home either a Nissan Serena Q-RV-R automatic and a Nissan Sentra Exalta 1.6 GS which are the main prizes at stake in The Grand Orchard raffle during the awards ceremony.

The major sponsors are Nissan Commonwealth, Taylor Made adidas, Cebu Pacific Air, sta. Elena/Mountain View General Services, Greens N Turf and Sta. Lucia Realty. Minor sponsors are Exotic Gardens, The Turf Co., Clark Parnham Mfg., Globe Telecoms, Aero Plus Multi-Service, Greens and Turf, Cici General Insurance, Emeritus Security and Maintenance System.

Nissan Commonwealth is providing the prize for a hole-in-one on all par-3s of both courses except for Palmer No. 12 which is sponsored by Cici.

Teams will play one round each on the Palmer course, the greens of which were regrassed to Tifeagle recently, as well as the adjoining Player layout of the same club that hosted the 1995 Johnnie Walker Classic.

There will be separate raffles for tournament and the membership. The club had sent out a maximum of 5,000 tickets at P1,500 for the membership raffle where brand-new cars, appliances and many more will be at stake. *JA*

Tagaytay Highlands hosts junior tilt

THE PHILIPPINE Junior Golf Federation is conducting its annual inter-school junior golf tournament starting tomorrow at the Tagaytay Highlands Golf Club. The three-day event, now on its 14th year, will be held in three different venues. Second day of competition will be at the Philippine Navy Golf Club on Monday and Canlubang Golf and Country Club will host the final day, Tuesday.

Adhering to its long-standing policy, the Philippine Junior Golf Federation, headed by its president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada, is not charging entry fees nor green fees.

"I would like to thank Tagaytay Highlands, Philippine Navy Golf Club and Canlubang Golf and Country Club for their continued and generous support to junior golf," said Cantada.

Competition will be in grade school and high school divisions both in girls' and boys' categories. Schools participating are Colegio de San Agustin, Brent School, La Salle Greenhills, De La Zobel, Southville International School and Colleges, Ann Arbor Montessori, St. Stephen High School, and OB Montessori. More schools are expected to meet the deadline for the submission of team lineups.

Golf Power special

GOLF Power today features the concluding half of the two-part golf special on the 2002 Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles Elite Invitational Golf Tournament. The event was held at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club and was participated in by frequent first-class and business-class passengers of the nation's flag carrier.

Golf Power, now on its seventh year, is aired every Saturday, 2 p.m., on RPN-9 and is hosted by golf professional Gerard Cantada. The weekly golf program is produced by Joe Cantada Sports. This week's episode is brought to you by Philippine Airlines in cooperation with Airbus Industrie, Boeing and Air Philippines.

'Rambol sa Ormoc' features 104 rounds

BOXING fans in Ormoc will be treated to an evening of non-stop action on Nov. 24 at the Ormoc City Superdome.

"Rambol sa Ormoc" is promoted by the Flash Elorde Boxing Network, in cooperation with Ormoc Mayor Carmelo Locsin and the City Physical Fitness & Sports Dev't Council.

There'll be a total of 104 rounds of professional and amateur bouts. The featured match is between local hero and RP No. 6 bantamweight contender Ricky Gozo and Culong Tahuson of Butuan City in the main event.

Olympian Danilo Lerio will display his punching prowess for the third time as a pro when he battles Butuan City bet Larry in the 108-lb division over six rounds.

Also expected to give excitement to the local fans will be the special 2 rounds women's bout between Welinda Batulan and Judith Baguio.

Philippines surprises Japan in BMW International meet

THE PHILIPPINE team scored a surprising victory in the nation category of the BMW Golf Cup International 2002.

Composed of Roland Garcia, Pedro Silo and Nancy Co, the Philippines downed favorite Japan with 328 points. Japan totalled 228 points.

For three days 117 amateur players from 39 countries battled each other in the breathtaking Eldorado Golf Club in Los Cabos, Mexico for a chance to win the prestigious BMW Golf Cup.

Designed by Jack Nicklaus, the 18-hole championship course challenged the finalists right from the beginning. The course, which extends about 7,000 yards for men and about 5,000 yards for ladies, is composed of strategically placed bunkers and waters as well as greens with subtle boorows.

This is the second year that the Philippines participated in BMW Golf Cup International. First held in 1988, this tournament has grown to be the largest and most prestigious amateur golf tournament in the world, bringing together more than 100,000 players every year.

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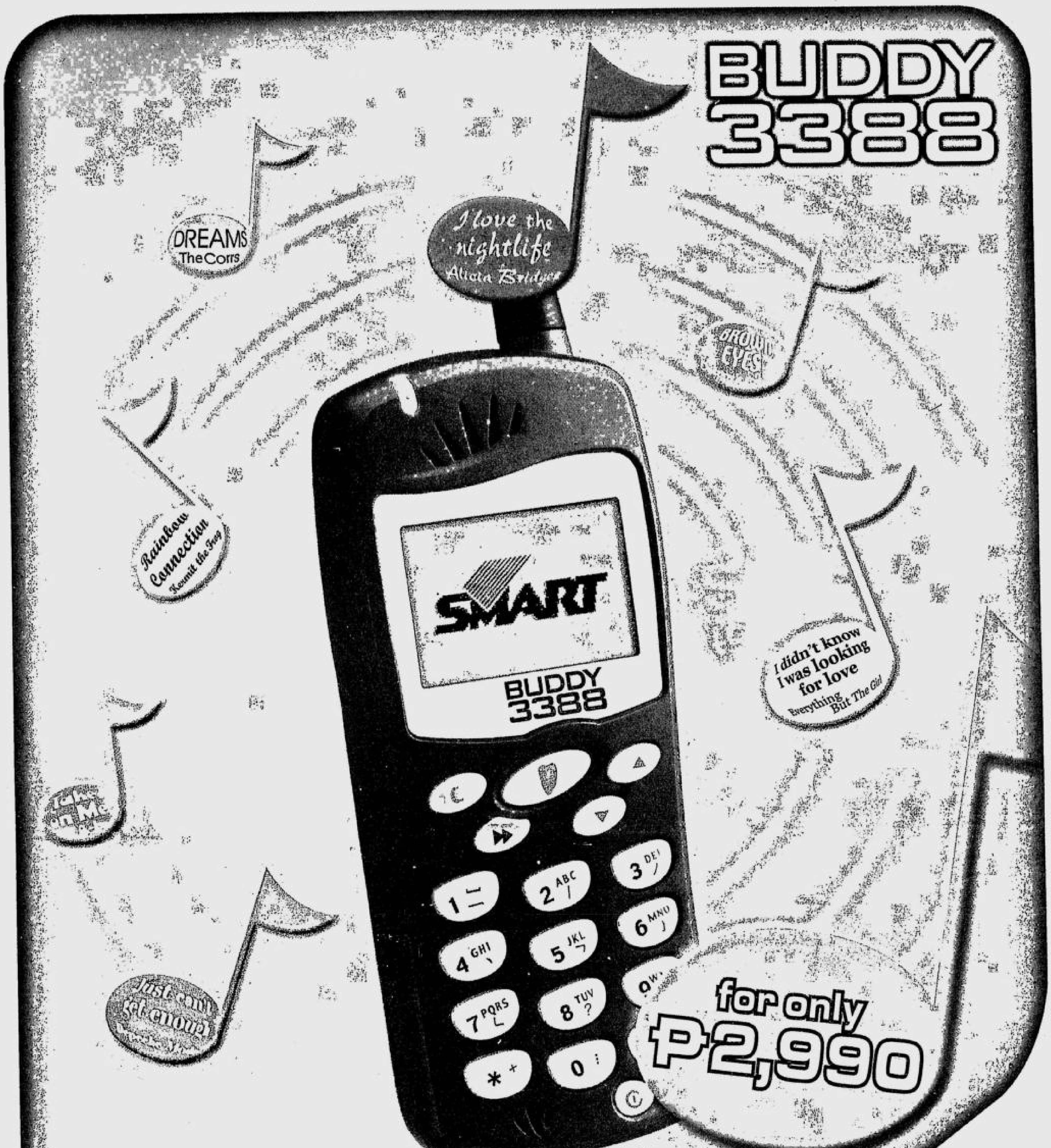
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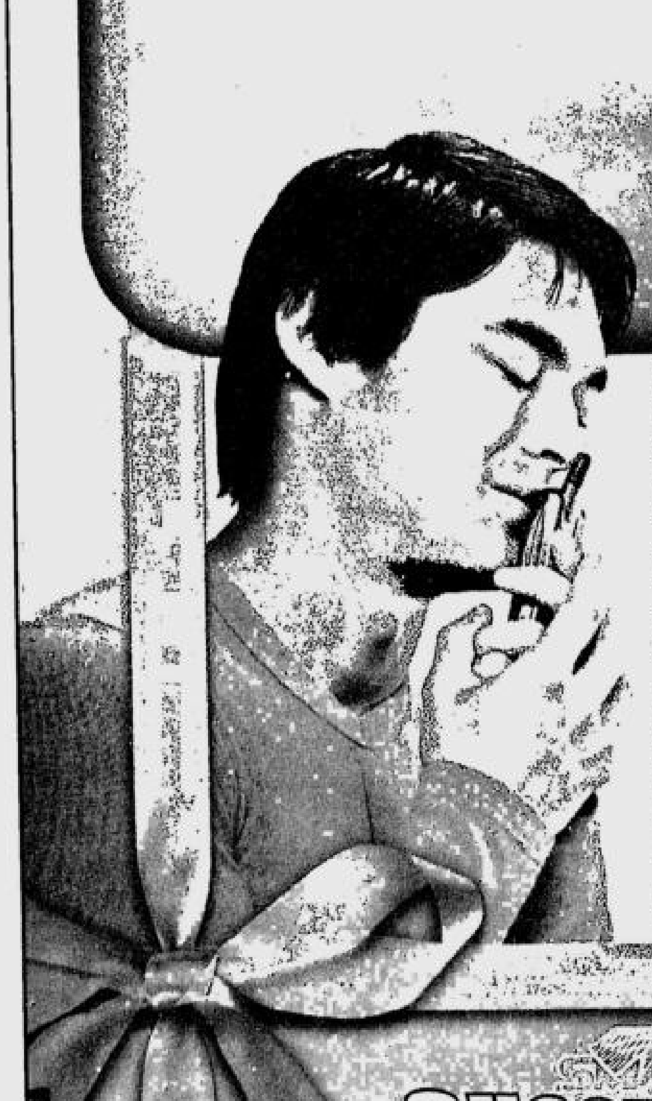

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- **HEAVEN BY YOUR SIDE** *A1*
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- **LIKE A VIRGIN** *Madonna*
- **MISSING** *Everything But The Girl*
- **OB LA DI OB LA DA** *Beatles*
- **RAINBOW CONNECTION** *Kermit the Frog*
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PORTION of jewelry in estafa case.

Korina explodes

By Philip C. Tubeza

ABS-CBN newscaster Korina Sanchez lost her cool and banged the door of the National Bureau of Investigation-NCR office before dawn yesterday, NBI sources said.

Sanchez allegedly made a scene while looking for businessman George Gregorio Cadhit, of Mckinley Road, South Forbes Park, Makati.

Cadhit was invited for questioning Thursday for estafa after he failed to pay for P658,000 worth of jewelry. Cadhit's lawyer Hilda Clave said he is a relative (a cousin) of Sanchez's friend Paul Aquino.

The NBI also investigated Cadhit after he allegedly dropped the name of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in his deals.

"What she (Sanchez) did was a breach of security. She could've been dragged out of here," one investigator said.

Sanchez, witnesses said, arrived at the NBI headquarters at around 2 a.m. with a camera team in tow and proceeded to the NCR office on the third floor.

But the agents at the office did not open the door because only lawyers are allowed to see their clients 24 hours a day, and even that has some requirements.

This reportedly angered the popular newscaster who alleged-

KORINA/A31

AT left is Gregorio Cadhit, Korina's subject of interest in her NBI visit, trying to hide from photographers.

MS Sanchez with friend Paul Aquino.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

'I was just doing my job'

ALL she did was try to intercede in the release of a suspect accused of estafa, Korina Sanchez said yesterday.

"Of course not, nothing like that happened. I was only there as a journalist responding to a complaint of illegal detention. I was just doing my job," Sanchez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Sanchez also said she was asking for documents and papers to prove that suspect Greg Cadhit could be detained.

"But they could not show me any papers. I was just firm because I was not allowed inside one of the rooms. They said he wasn't there but it turned out that he was there," Sanchez fumed.

She also denied that she created a scene at the NBI offices. Sanchez added that she would file charges against any NBI agent who would say she had created a scene and had tried to intercede on behalf of Cadhit.

"I don't even know him that well. I was there to investigate a case of illegal detention against the NBI. This should not be against Korina but against the NBI."

Atty. Edmund Arugay of the NBI also denied Sanchez had tried to intercede for the release of Cadhit or that she created a scene. "No such incident happened. She was just there to inquire on the case. *Di 'sya nagwawala.*" Alcuin Papa

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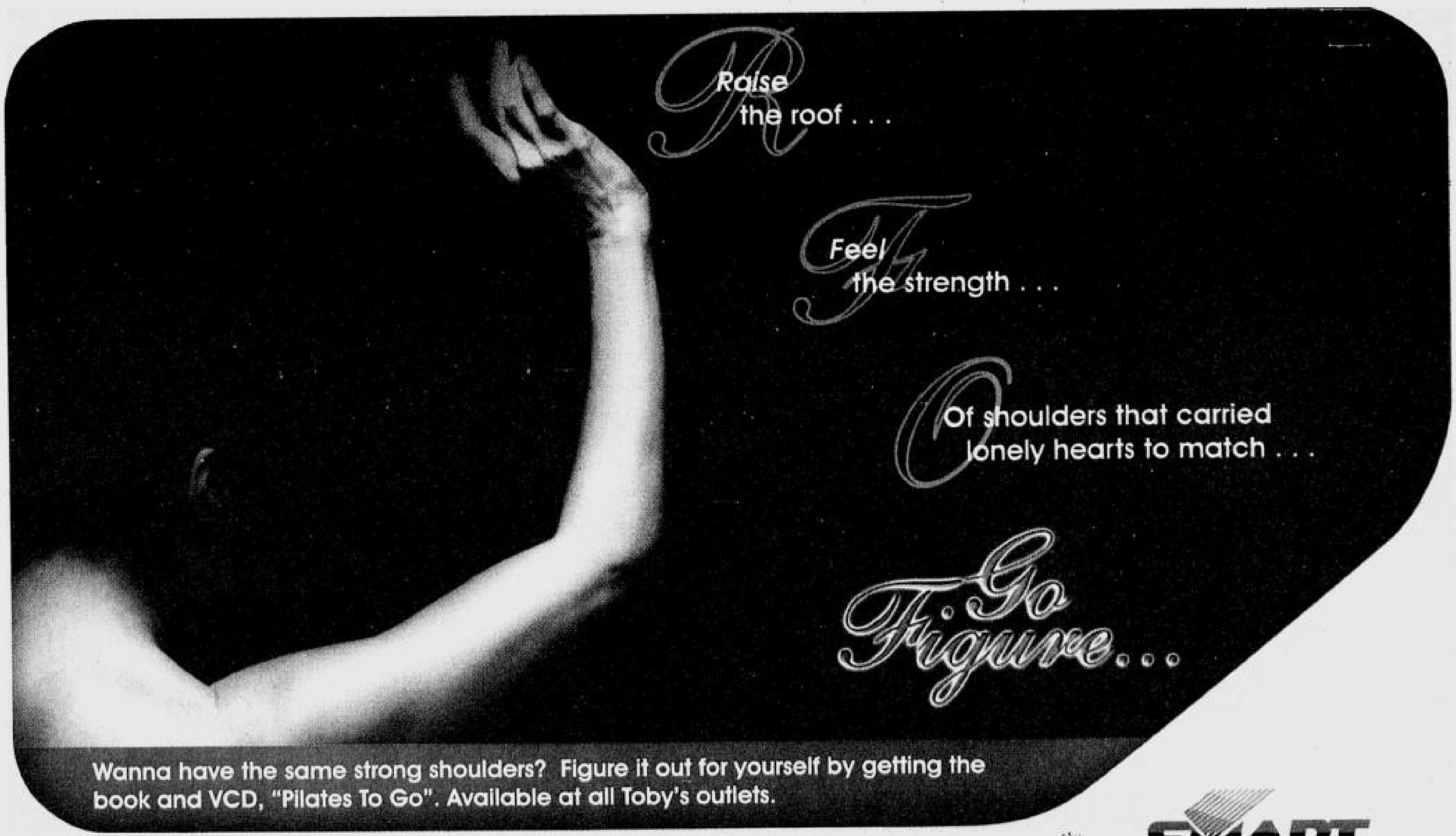

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2	HIBLA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

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5	BRAZEN WOMAN
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9 (DOLBY)	CLOCK STOPPERS

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1	GISING NA SI ADAN
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4 (SDDS)	BRAZEN WOMAN
5	BIYAHERA
6 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
7 (DTS)	SEX FILES
8	MASARAP NA PUGAD
9	TWO TIMER

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	BIYAHERA
2 (SDDS)	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS)	HIBLA
4 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
5	GISING NA SI ADAN

Gotesco Ortigas
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1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3 (DTS)	GISING NA SI ADAN
4	BIYAHERA
5 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER

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1	BIYAHERA

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1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	BRAZEN WOMAN
4	GISING NA SI ADAN
5	BIYAHERA

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2	RESERVE

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1	BIYAHERA
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1	KAILANGAN KITA
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3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GHOST SHIP
4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
5 (DTS)	THE TRANSPORTER
6	BRAZEN WOMAN
7	BIYAHERA

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1	GISING NA SI ADAN
2	HARRY POTTER

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1	BIYAHERA
2	HIBLA
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1	HIBLA
2 (DTS)	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	CHANGING LINES

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	HIBLA
2 (DOLBY)	CHANGING LINES
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	KAILANGAN KITA

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2	KAILANGAN KITA
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3	SEX FILES

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3	BIYAHERA

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3 (DTS)	HIBLA
4 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER

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2	HARRY POTTER
3	KAILANGAN KITA
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7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	BRAZEN WOMEN
9	MASTER OF DISGUISE
10	HIBLA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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1	BIYAHERA
2	BRAZEN WOMEN
3	TRANSPORTER
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	CLOCKSTOPPERS
9	HIBLA
10	GHOST SHIP
11	SEX FILES
12	GISING NA SI ADAN

SM CITY MANILA
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1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	CLOCKSTOPPERS
3	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	MASTER OF DISGUISE
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	HIBLA
8	BIYAHERA
9	HARRY POTTER 2
10	BRAZEN WOMEN
11	KAILANGAN KITA
12	GISING NA SI ADAN

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2	TRANSPORTER
3	GHOST SHIP
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	MASTER OF DISGUISE
6	CLOCKSTOPPERS
7	BIYAHERA
8	GISING NA SI ADAN
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	HARRY POTTER 2
11	HIBLA
12	BRAZEN WOMEN

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3	HIBLA
4	BRAZEN WOMEN
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6	CLOCKSTOPPERS
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2

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	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
2	MASTER OF DISGUISE
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	GISING NA SI ADAN
6	BRAZEN WOMEN
7	HIBLA
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	CLOCKSTOPPERS
10	BIYAHERA

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1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3	POSSESSION
	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
5	HIBLA
6	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
7	KAILANGAN KITA
8	HARRY POTTER 2

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1	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
2	CLOSED
3	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4	GHOST SHIP
5	CHANGING LANES
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	CLOSED
8	HIBLA

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	BIYAHERA
4	HIBLA
5	CHANGING LANES
6	KAILANGAN KITA

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1	HIBLA
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
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1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	GISING NA SI ADAN

SM CITY DAVAO
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1	GHOST SHIP
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HIBLA
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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3
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SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HIBLA
3	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4	HARRY POTTER 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 10:00 FS/10:20 MF/1:30/4:40/7:50/ 10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:50 END
2	CLOCKSTOPPERS 11:00 FS/11:35 MF/1:40/3:45/5:50/ 7:55/9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:35 END

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Court misled on depot issue, says Atienza

By Jerome Aning

ATIENZA

"IT IS Councilor Benjamin Ašilo, not Mayor Lito Atienza, who ought to be suspended for misleading the Ombudsman."

The Manila city government's chief legal officer made this retort vis-a-vis Asilo's move to have Atienza suspended for allowing the country's three big oil firms to operate at the Pandacan fuel terminal despite an ordinance shutting down the facility.

Atienza yesterday filed a perjury charge against Asilo for failing to tell the Ombudsman that the agreement allowing the oil firms to remain in Pandacan was merely referred by Atienza to the City Council.

Monsod said Atienza never made a commitment nor intended to violate the ordinance when he signed a memorandum of understanding with Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. and the executives of Shell, Caltex and Petron.

Under the June 26 MOU, signed two days before the ordinance took effect, City Hall gave the three firms permission to operate at the depot until the end of the year.

The oil companies were required to scale down their operations by dismantling several tanks, building a "green" buffer zone, and setting up a common depot.

Monsod quoted Article II, Section 3 of the agreement which states that the mayor "shall endorse to the council this MOU for its appropriate action with the view of implementing the spirit and intent thereof."

The Council, which is dominated by Atienza's allies, ratified the MOU on July 25.

Monsod contended that the ordinance which shut down the depot remains "untouched" despite the MOU.

"The MOU was ultimately dependent on what the Council wants to do and Asilo knows it because he was present when it was discussed and ratified by the majority," Monsod said over the phone.

The lawyer said that because Asilo "deliberately omitted" this fact in the complaint, Atienza filed a motion to re-evaluate the case, which the Ombudsman granted about two weeks ago.

"Had the councilor included in his complaint what really happened, the Ombudsman would have come up with a different conclusion," Monsod added.

Last Oct. 10, the Ombudsman's administrative adjudication bureau found enough basis and substance in Asilo's complaint to investigate Atienza for grave misconduct, conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, and violation of Republic Act 6713, or the code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials.

Police respond to Etta's cry

THEIR superiors are checking on the identities of three Quezon City policemen who blocked the car Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales was riding in Wednesday night.

Rosales said that a certain Col. Jocson has assured her the Philippine National Police is taking action after she recounted her experience. Rosales had earlier complained about three Quezon City policemen who blocked the red Honda Civic car she was riding with members of her family along Mangga road in New Manila.

Yesterday, Rosales said Jocson told her that what the three policemen did was improper.

"They admitted that you just don't cut in that way," she said in a phone interview. "You just don't do that."

Christine Avendaño

Newspaper ad leads to fall of car thieves

By Philip C. Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents have busted a car theft syndicate that tried to again sell a stolen car through a newspaper ad.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the two arrested suspects as Maynard A. Villamar, alias "Mandy C. Tolentino" and "Chrysler" of Block 61, Lot 32 Lagro, Novaliches, Quezon Avenue and Ernesto B. Bato, of Block 7 Lot 2 Amparo Subdivision, Caloocan City.

The other suspects who are still large were identified as Marcelo B. Wallif, of 427 Pavia St., Tondo, Manila, a certain Lito, and two John Does.

Assistant Regional Director Vicente De Guzman III, head of the NBI-Special Action Unit, said complainant Arnel Enriquez bought a Toyota Revo Model 2001 for P340,000 after seeing an ad on a newspaper.

Enriquez said he bought it through "Lito" and Wallif, the alleged owner.

But Enriquez later found out that the car was stolen. Wallif also does not reside on the address stated in the car's original receipt and registration certificate.

The buyer also discovered that the Revo's plate number belonged to another vehicle. This prompted Enriquez to seek help from the NBI.

Investigators got a break when the culprits again posted an ad in the newspaper. This time they were selling a Mitsubishi Adventure.

An NBI agent called up the contact numbers printed in the ad. The person who answered said the car belongs to Wallif and that it is "available for viewing."

De Guzman said his agent met with Villamar at the SM North Mall's parking lot to inspect the Adventure.

The agent asked for the car's registration papers but Villamar said they were with Wallif.

Unfortunately, the culprits sensed that something was wrong when the agent asked where Wallif was.

The agent saw two male lookouts scamper away. Villamar was collared before he could flee.

Bato, whose name appeared in the ad, was subpoenaed. He presented himself at the NBI-SAU office and was investigated.

Bato allegedly admitted to posting the ads for the Revo and the Adventure.

But Villamar allegedly changed his alibi and claimed that he just bought the Adventure from Wallif. However, he could not present any deed of sale.

De Guzman said the Revo was stolen on Oct. 1 last year in front of Star Mall in Mandaluyong City.

The Adventure (with plate number XDE-850 and not MBL 777) belongs to a certain Pablo delos Santos of Cut-Cut, Bulacan, De Guzman added.

The suspects were charged with car theft, estafa through falsification of public documents, and attempted estafa before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

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More Flight 585 rescuers want to see GMA

By Tina Santos

THEY lamented that, unlike other rescuers and volunteers, they had not been recognized by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Yesterday, three more fishermen surfaced to claim they too saved some passengers in the Laoag Air Flight 585 that crashed at the Manila Bay on Nov. 11.

The fishermen from Navotas reportedly turned out to be those who rescued pilot Capt. Bernie Crisostomo, Australian citizen Steve Thompson and other several passengers.

They were not as lucky as those who were given monetary rewards by President Arroyo in Malacañang.

However, Allan Zubiaga, 32; Mario Singson, 37; and Virgilio Sanchez, 32, all residents of E. Tuazon Street, Barangay San Jose, will be given due recognition by Mayor Toby Tiangco of Navotas and other local officials in a special ceremony at the municipal hall on Monday.

"It is only proper to give our three local fishermen due recognition. Their splendid action and unselfish attitude are worthy to be recognized, thus making us very proud that they are Navoteños," he said.

According to Zubiaga, they were out at sea on Nov. 11 when they saw the LIA Fokker plane crash at Manila Bay. Risking their lives, they said they immediately dived into the water in a determined bid to save passengers of the ill-fated Flight 585.

Zubiaga claimed he was the one who saved pilot Crisostomo whom he pulled away from the crash site before he was transferred by other authorities onto a ship of the Philippine Coast Guard near the Cultural Center of the Philippines premises.

Singson and Sanchez, meanwhile, claimed they were the ones who rescued the Australian national and other passengers.

They expressed disappointment that the President never recognized them although they played vital parts during the rescue operations.

"Since the President acknowledged those who risked their lives to save others, we feel we deserve to get the same," the Navotas fishermen said.

More than a week after the tragedy, the President extolled fishermen-brothers Edgar and Crispulo Naga who each received P50,000 from her.

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TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HIGH RISK / VOODOO
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	GISING NA SI ADAN
REMAR	BIYAHERA
REMAR-2	GISING NA SI ADAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HIBLA
B	GISING NA SI ADAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-1	THE TRANSPORTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER 2
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CINEMA-1	GISING NA SI ADAN
CINEMA-2	BIYAHERA
CINEMA-3	KAILANGAN KITA
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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-6	SEX FILES
CINEMA-7	MASARAP NA PUGAD
CINEMA-8	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CLOCK STOPPERS
CINEMA-12	HIBLA
CINEMA-14	BARZEN WOMEN
CINEMA-15	KAILANGAN KITA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
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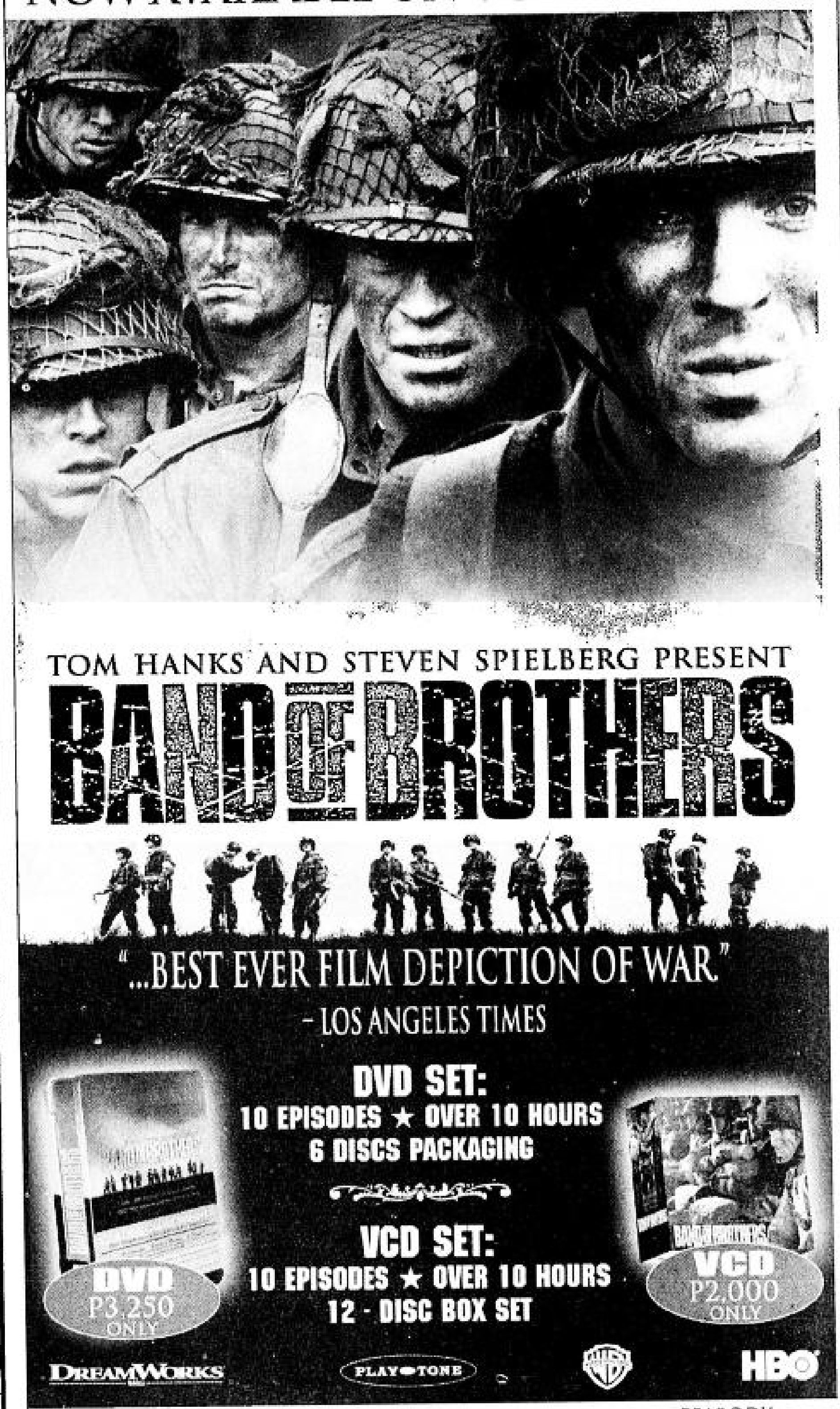
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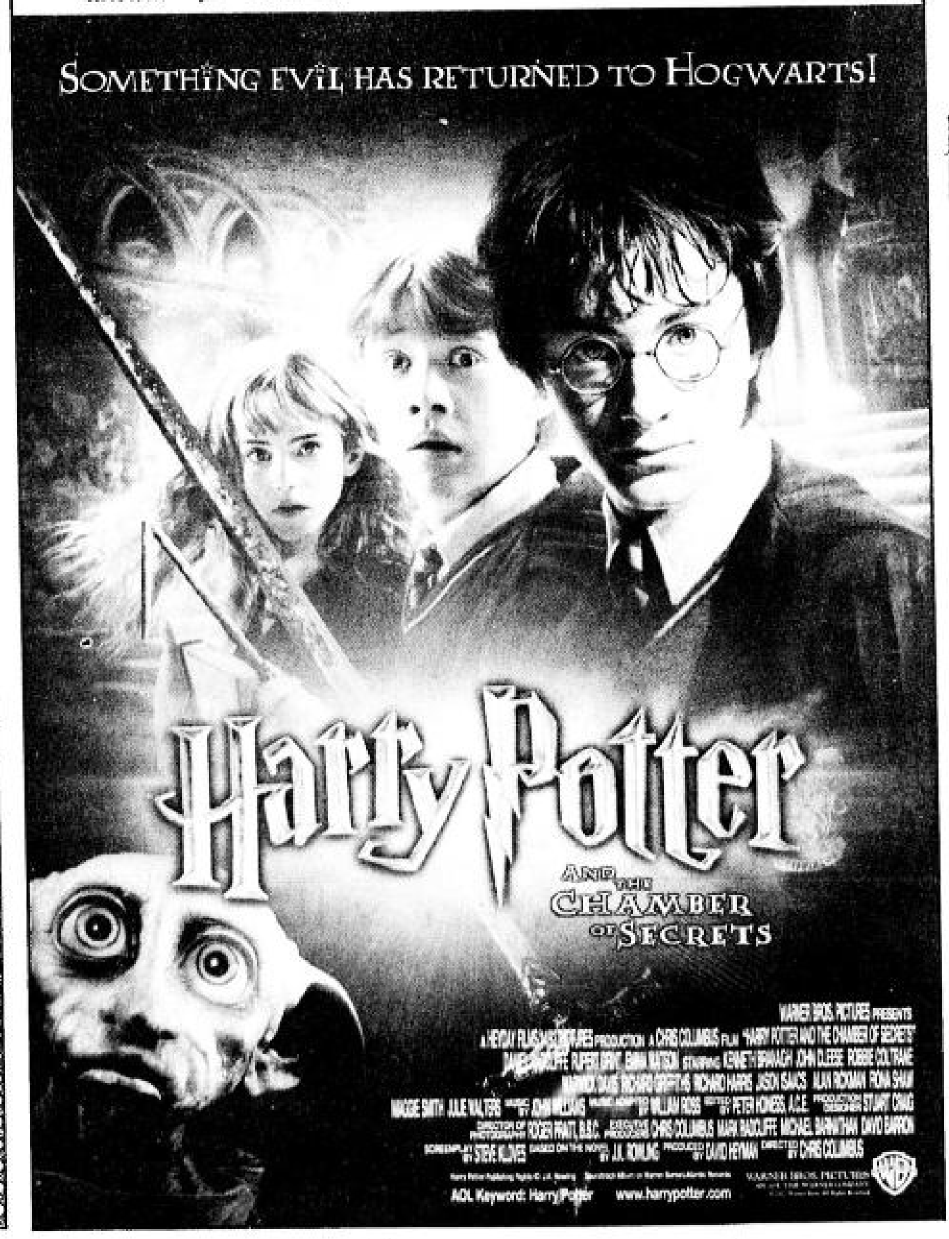
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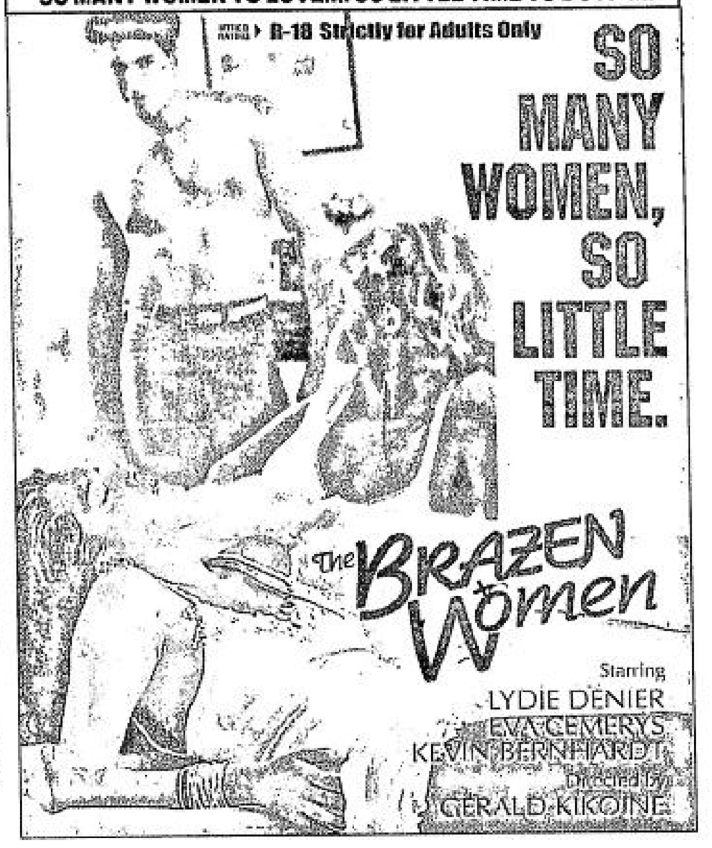
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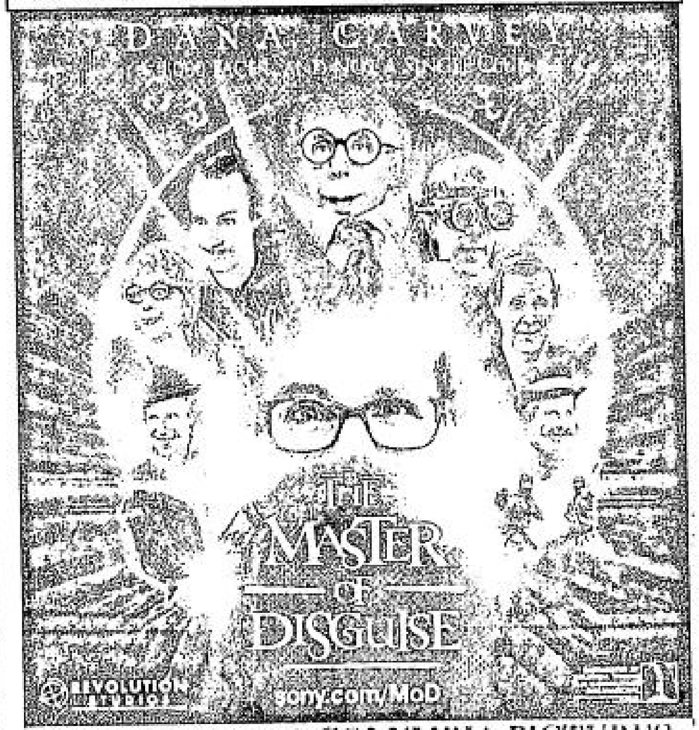
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Court turns down plea of Loren's husband to freeze Prama assets

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MAKATI Regional Trial Court has refused the request of Senator Loren Legarda's husband to freeze the assets of the Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association Foundation Inc. (Prama), because the Bureau of Immigration has put the foundation's president on its blacklist.

In a Nov. 11 order, Judge Romeo Barza of Branch 61 of the Makati RTC denied the motion of Antonio Leviste against Prama and its board of trustees.

Leviste has sought the issuance of a writ of preliminary attachment against Prama for fear Prama President Ramon Collado would skip the country in connection with the libel case Leviste filed against the foundation.

Leviste has charged Prama and the editors of its newsletter, "Prama Gram," for insinuating that he and his wife were extorting money from members of the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority to finance the senator's 2004 electoral bid.

In denying the motion, Barza said since Collado, a Spanish lawyer, has been put on the BI's blacklist and is scheduled for deportation, his departure from the country could not be considered voluntary.

Barza said for the writ of preliminary attachment to be issued, Collado must show he will leave the country with the intent to defraud the creditors.

Body of AMA student found in UP campus

By Alcuin Papa

"I'M COMING home mama. Please cook dinner for me. I love you."

This was the last text message James Ireneo Manzano sent to his mother Thursday night.

Early yesterday morning, the body of Manzano, 21, a graduating mass communications student of the AMA Computer College and resident of Cauliflower Street, Greenweeds Executive Village, Pasig City, was found in the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

The body of Manzano bore several stab wounds in the abdomen.

SPO2 Cresenciano Bajao of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit said the body was discovered at around 6 a.m. in front of the Palma Hall (Arts and Sciences Building) in UP Diliman.

Investigation revealed that on Thursday night, Manzano had told his mother Maureen that he would be attending mass at the UP Chapel.

Manzano, it was learned, had just broken up with his girlfriend three days ago.

Policemen are considering the possibility that Manzano might have been caught in the middle of a fraternity war.

Police have ruled out the possibility that Manzano was a victim of a holdup because none of his belongings were missing.

Scene of the crime investigators also found an eight-inch knife a few meters away from Manzano's body. Investigators believe that this was the murder weapon.

Also on Thursday night, student Darwin Dayang, of Liwanag Street, Barangay Old Balara, Diliman, was stabbed dead after he accidentally stepped on the foot of one of the suspects.

Dayang, 22, was pronounced dead at the East Avenue Medical Center, police said.

Police have identified the suspects as Gener Ignacio and a certain "Ompong."

Investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez, said Dayang was killed at around 11:30 p.m. on Liwanag Street, when he accidentally stepped on Ompong's foot.

SPO1 Fernandez said the suspect engaged Dayang in a heated argument, which led to the stabbing.

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ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CATHOLIC Church in the country has declared war against Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson who has urged wider use of contraceptives to curb the runaway population growth.

I may not see eye to eye with Lacson on a lot of issues, but I agree with him 100 percent on the population issue.

We need to slow down the ballooning increase in population. In fact, as things stand now, we should have zero population growth like they had in Singapore several years ago.

* * *

God forbid, but if the Catholic Church campaigned hard against Lacson it might create the opposite effect of what the church aims for—his defeat at the polls! Instead, Lacson might become a martyr.

Why did Juan Flavier win in the senatorial elections even if the Church did not endorse his candidacy? Flavier got the ire of the Catholic clergy for his family planning advocacy when he was health secretary.

Truth to tell, there's no such thing as a Catholic vote.

* * *

Catholics vote according to their conscience and not according to the dictates of their church leaders.

There's been no hard evidence that Mike Velarde's El Shaddai flock votes as one like the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC).

Catholics follow the preaching of their church leaders, but they vote according to political affiliation or in exchange for monetary consideration.

To repeat, there's no such thing as a Catholic vote.

* * *

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has suspended two officials at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa for allowing cellular phones inside the maximum security cells. Because of the laxity of these officials, a convicted illegal recruiter was able to victimize more than 200 jobseekers from his prison cell using his cellular phone.

Suspended by the justice secretary were Gregorio Agalo-os, NBP superintendent, and his deputy, Catalino Malinao.

Perez picked on the wrong guys. Yes, they were partly to blame for the proliferation of cellular phones inside the NBP. But Agalo-os and Malinao were just following orders from higher-ups.

* * *

The people behind the smuggling of cellular phones and—brace for this shocking revelation—alcoholic beverages and drugs are the relatives of a high-ranking official of the Bureau of Corrections.

One of his sons, an engineer, and his two sons-in-law have divided the business of smuggling cellular phones, liquor and drugs among themselves, according to very reliable sources inside the NBP.

So, Secretary Perez should first have suspended this official before suspending the two minor officials. The official's relatives are behind all the irregularities at the NBP.

* * *

It's understandable that the justice secretary should get minor officials as scapegoats for the stinking mess at the Muntinlupa prisons because the high official involved is his protégé.

It was Perez who recommended this official to his present position even if he knew that the retired policeman did not have the qualifications. The official's only qualification is his being a Batangueño like Perez.

Mr. Secretary, now that you've been informed about the illegal activities of your *kababayan* at the NBP, it's now your ball.

* * *

I am told that the present NBP's administration is the most corrupt in the history of the corrections bureau, formerly the Bureau of Prisons.

Cellular phones, liquor and drugs are smuggled into the National Bilibid Prisons unhampered, according to my sources at the NBP.

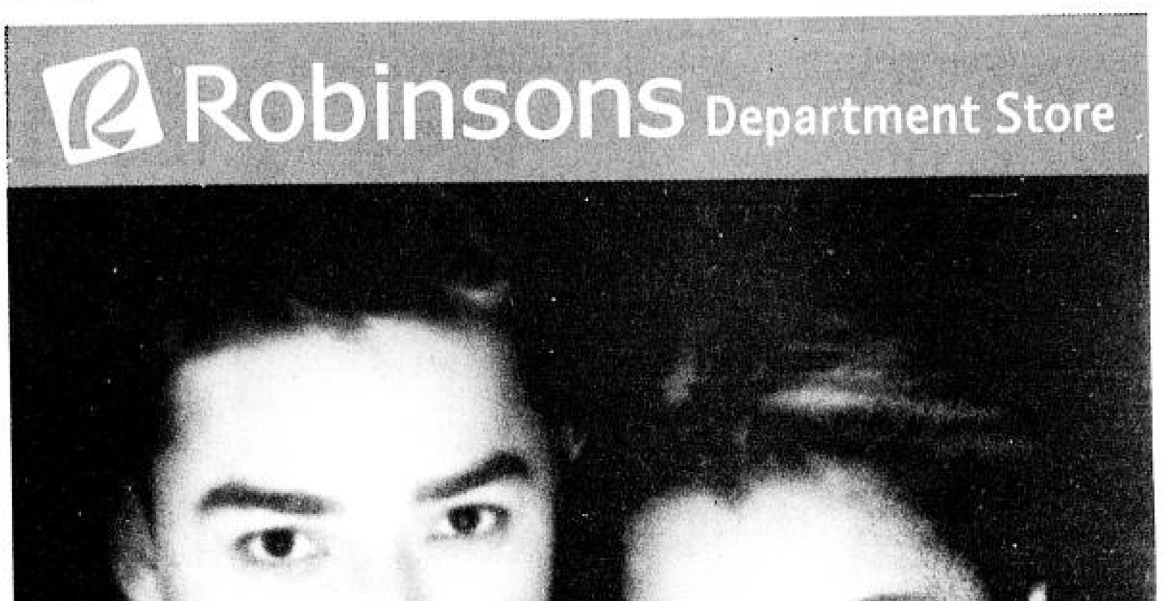
Prison guards, already corrupt during the past terms of previous directors, have become much, much more corrupt now.

Before, drugs and liquor found their way into the NBP compound only in trickles. The previous officials, according to sources, had little or no knowledge about the smuggling of banned items into the NBP.

* * *

But under the present administration, liquor and drugs have been flooding into the NBP compound, my sources said.

If liquor and drugs can easily be smuggled into the NBP compound, then it's much easier to smuggle the "less dangerous" cellular phones.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Stolen cellular phone leads owner to thief

By Leila Salaverria

HIGH-TECH cellular phone technology has led to the downfall of suspected cell phone thief Eniberto Locsin in Makati City Thursday.

Locsin, of San Andres Bukid and an employee of a beauty salon in Guadalupe, was arrested for allegedly stealing the Nokia 7650 cell phone of Sharon M. Buensuceso, 30, a SMART wireless manager.

According to PO2 Rody Tallud, Buensuceso lost her cell phone on Nov. 18. Since her cell phone service provider has a locator function, which can trace the whereabouts of a SMART unit, she was able to locate the suspected thief.

Tallud said Buensuceso also checked the numbers called by her cell phone, and was able to contact Locsin. Tallud said the SMART executive befriended Locsin in the days that followed over the cell phone. Later, she asked him if she could buy a Nokia 7650 cell phone.

Locsin then offered Buensuceso a Nokia 7650 phone for P18,000 and, when the two met, Buensuceso had the suspect arrested.

Buensuceso told police she was positive that Locsin has her phone because of the unit's serial number.

Locsin has denied knowing that the Nokia 7650 that he was trying to sell had been stolen. But Tallud said the suspect could be working with another man who actually steals the phones.

Yuletide spirit hits QC robbers

By Alcuin Papa

WITH Christmas just around the corner, robbery incidents in Quezon City have increased.

Suspected burglars on Thursday hit the house of businesswoman Teresita Ong and took about P5 million in assorted jewelry.

Ong, 64, of Greenwich Subdivision, Barangay Ugong Norte, Quezon City, yesterday filed a robbery complaint before the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit.

She told investigators that when she went home at around 8:30 a.m., she noticed the door to her house was open. When she went inside, she found that all her jewelry was gone.

Earlier this week, police rounded up seven suspected holdup men in the city.

Police on Wednesday arrested Rolando Bron, 22, of Cubao, Quezon City, for robbing Romelita Mercardo, 24, of Pasay City, and Felisa Tuppil, 29, of Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Members of CPD Police Station 7 in Cubao caught the suspect after a brief chase on Aurora Boulevard in Cubao at around 9 a.m.

At 3:45 p.m. of the same day, Cubao policemen arrested suspects Erwin Cabonles, 24, of Cubao, and Alvin Dela Cruz, 24, of Marikina City, for robbing students Catherine Sta. Maria, 19, and Mary Catherine Tan, 17, inside an FX taxi in Cubao.

Three other holdup men were apprehended by members of the Lagro Police Station at around 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The suspects were identified as Romy Aregle, Ernie Bartille and Ernie Gorille. All three were arrested in Barangay Pasong Putik, Novaliches, Lagro, Quezon City.

Also arrested was James Haldel, 28, for robbing an FX taxi in Cubao.

Newlywed killed in Cainta fire

By Nelson Flores

A NEWLY married man was killed and more than 150 people were rendered homeless in a blaze that hit a densely populated slum community in Cainta, Rizal early yesterday morning.

Police identified the fatality as Reynaldo Sinugaya, a resident of Block 1, Lower East Bank Road, Floodway, Barangay San Andres, Cainta.

He was alone and said to be dead drunk when the fire broke out in his house, investigators said.

Police said the victim's wife is in a hospital caring for a relative when the fire happened.

Arson investigators said the 45-minute blaze, which started at 3:06 a.m., began inside the victim's shanty.

Fire Senior Inspector Arturo Marcos, head of the Cainta municipal fire station, said a power failure hit the slum community where the fire occurred at about 7 p.m. Thursday, prompting many residents to light candles.

He added that the victim, because of his intoxication, apparently failed to put out his candle which started the blaze.

Marcos said the fire destroyed at least 30 other shanties.

He pegged property damage at P500,000.

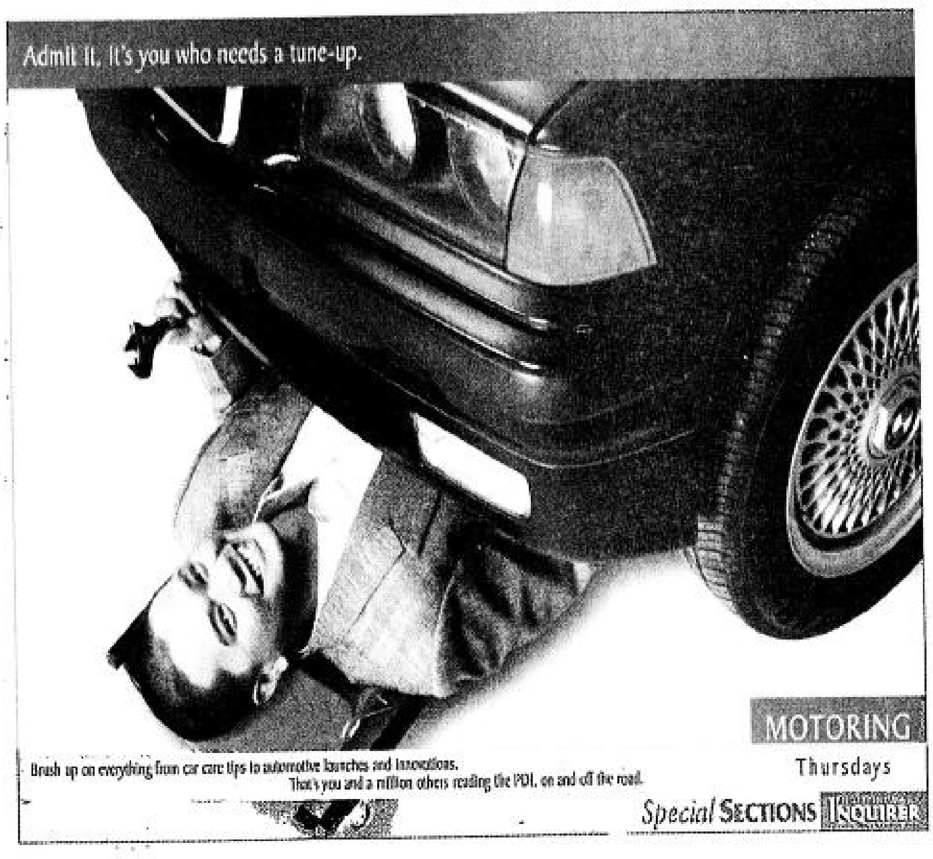
PHAP Congress

THE PRIVATE Hospitals Association of the Philippines will hold its 24th National Congress on Nov. 27 at the Hyatt Regency Manila.

Dr. Peter Orris, keynote speaker, will talk on the theme: "Health Care without Harm." He is now on a worldwide campaign setting up the framework to be adopted in hospitals and medical centers to create a harmless agenda in waste management using non-incineration technology.

Dr. Carlos P. Crisostomo, PHAP president, said this is the first time that hospital administrators will receive first-hand information on safer waste disposal alternatives.

The PHAP will also educate the public on the ill effects of dioxins, mercury and other hazardous chemicals that pollute the air and can cause cancer and other lung ailments if hospitals have no proper waste management.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HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 1:20, 4:40, 8:00, 11:20	REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 22-23, 29-30 / DEC. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	TRAPPED 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
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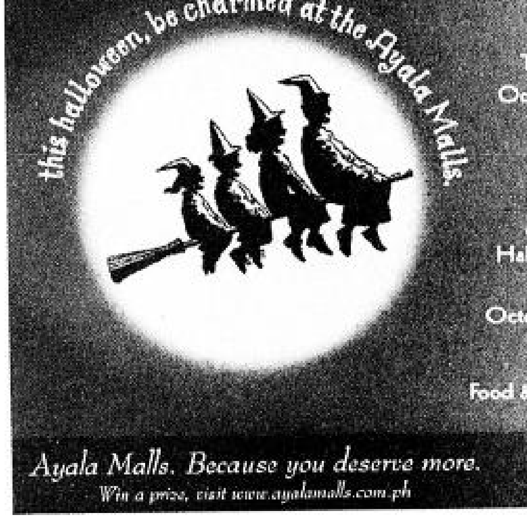
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Mallwide Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza
Halloween Party featuring Southborder
Cebu
October 27, 1 - 5 pm, Activity Center
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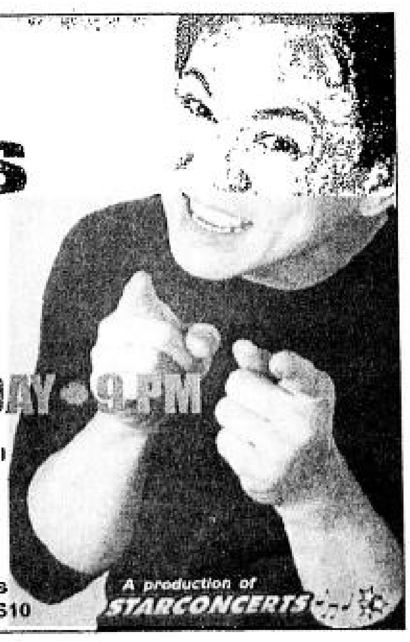
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HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 11:50,3:00,6:10,9:20	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 11:10,2:20,5:30,8:40	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 1:10,4:20,7:30,10:40

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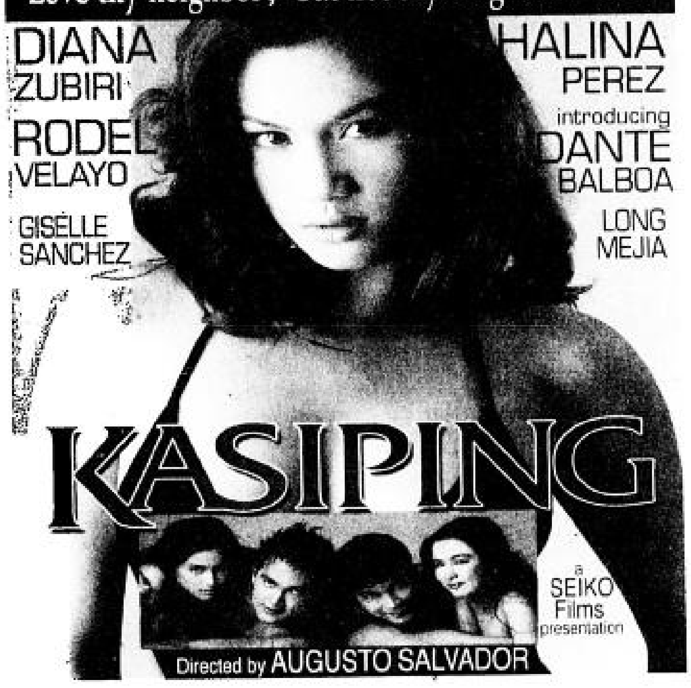
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NBI agents collar couple for fleecing Calamba mayor

By Philip C. Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents nabbed two alleged New People's Army members after the suspects tried to extort money from Calamba, Laguna Mayor Severino J. Lajara.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Diosdado A. Casupang, 55, and his live-in partner Rebecca V. Caguin, 45, both of Golden City Subdivision, Sta. Rosa, Manila, told the mayor to give them P200,000 in exchange "for (Lajara's) personal safety, and that of his family."

Lajara said that sometime last year, Casupang handed him an extortion letter signed by a certain "Kumander Liwanag" of the NPA, according to Oscar L. Embido, NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division chief.

Casupang was then Lajara's bodyguard, Embido added.

He said the mayor acceded to the demand and gave Casupang P200,000. The money was delivered to Casupang's house in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

But on Aug. 27, Lajara received another extortion letter demanding P200,000. The letter-sender again told the mayor to deliver the money to Casupang's house.

On All Saint's Day, Lajara received another letter. The letter also had a black ribbon and the mayor's photograph.

The letter writer warned that if Lajara gave no money, a bomb will explode in his house and office.

Embido said the extortion attempts led the mayor to finally seek the NBI's help.

The bureau then set an entrapment operation on Nov. 20. Caguin was nabbed while in the act of receiving the marked money.

NBI agents conducted follow-up operations in Laguna and arrested Casupang.

Embido said the couple has been charged with robbery extortion and grave threat before the Department of Justice.

Fernando pleads garbage case to Quezon officials

By Leila B. Salaverria
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

AS METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando again attempted to plead his case before members of Quezon's Provincial Board, those opposed to the setting up of a garbage facility in the province staged a mammoth protest rally in Lucena City yesterday.

Fernando said he still hopes to convince Quezon officials of the merits of the MMDA plan to build a 2,000-hectare garbage facility in the area.

"My only request if for them to give us a chance to explain (what the project is about)," he said yesterday. "I am not losing hope (that they will understand our request.)"

He also said that he is willing to meet with the Quezon officials "anytime."

Fernando also said he remains unfazed by the board's resolution last Monday rejecting the MMDA garbage project, and by the ordinance prohibiting the garbage of other areas to be dumped in Quezon.

"A resolution or ordinance can be amended or repealed at the pleasure of the members," he said.

In Lucena City, Quezon officials said they are standing firm in their decision to reject the proposed P1.5-B garbage facility in the province.

Protesters yesterday ended a mammoth rally where more than 100 vehicles participated in the longest protest caravan that started from Tiaong town and wound up in Lucena City.

The protesters in their vehicles, which stretched over a kilometer, made stopover rallies in the towns of Candelaria and Sariaya.

Running priest Fr. Robert Reyes also staged a six-kilometer run before joining up with Lucena protesters.

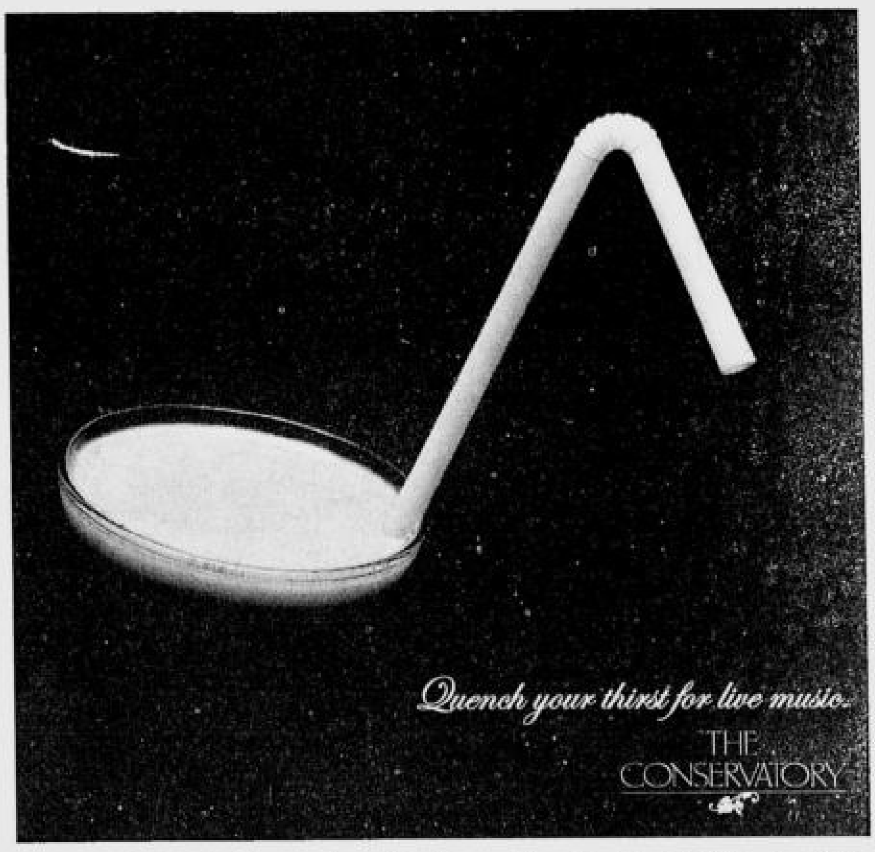
In a speech, Reyes hit Fernando's plan to tap the ailing railways system for the daily transport of 6,000 tons of garbage from Metro Manila to the target site in Tiaong and Candelaria towns.

"What is wrong with this government?" Reyes asked. "It can rehabilitate the dilapidated ... railways for the fast and easy transport of garbage, but it never passes through their bureaucratic mind to (use) it (to) transport poor Filipinos from Bicol and the rest of Southern Luzon?"

Yesterday, Fernando said he has not even begun to ask for consent for the use of Quezon's lands. He added that he wants to remove the stigma attached to the garbage and let the officials appreciate the value of the project.

"We have not asked, as of this time, for (the provincial board's) consent because we know they would not at this point agree (to the plan)," he said. "We are actually doing an information campaign so they will know what we want to do and erase from their minds that garbage is bad."

On Monday, officials of the Quezon Provincial Board unanimously passed a resolution rejecting the "Waste Rail Transfer and Processing Project of the MMDA."



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Korina explodes

From page A0

ly began pounding on the door and tried to get in.

"What she did did not help because we were already helping the two parties to reach a settlement," another source said.

The source added that the agents were also concerned since Sanchez threatened not to leave until "she had (Cadhit) with her."

When the agents did not budge, Sanchez and the crew decided to camp outside with the TV crew and called NBI officials, including NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Sanchez eventually left at around 7:30 a.m. before her lawyer, Salvador Panelo, arrived.

Sanchez denied that she was trying to "arbor" or free Cadhit.

She said that she went to the NBI headquarters because Cadhit was being illegally detained since "no formal charges were filed."

An investigator said Cadhit was subpoenaed and that the two parties were trying to settle the case.

Sanchez said that she "just knocked" on the door because the agents inside would not show Cadhit to her and were even denying that he was inside.

She also clarified her statement that she would not leave without Cadhit. Sanchez explained that she just wanted the agents to produce the suspect.

Sanchez hit the NBI over radio station dzMM yesterday morning while the complainant in the estafa case listened at the NCR office.

"She should have looked at both sides first before saying those things," said the businesswoman, who wished not to be identified.

She said she sold Cadhit P2.9 million worth of jewelry on several occasions starting on Oct. 8.

But when she asked for him to pay his P658,000 balance on Oct. 25, he failed to do so.

Since then, Cadhit allegedly reasoned that he could not pay or return the jewelry because he had given them to the "First Couple, Imee Marcos, and JV Ejercito."

Yesterday, the two parties agreed to amicably settle the case.

Cadhit was allowed to leave the NBI office after his friend gave the complainant a Starex van's deed of sale to guarantee that he would return and pay her.

At around 12:30 p.m., Cadhit returned to the NBI and gave back to the complainant the jewelry he owed and paid the balance in cash.

The complainant claimed some pieces of jewelry Cadhit had returned were also once in Sanchez's possession.

National Coop picks new officers

THE NATIONAL Cooperative Movement recently elected a new set of officers at the Café Appassionato in Makati City. The new chair is former Agriculture Secretary Senen Bacani, replacing Secretary Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan of the Office of Presidential Adviser for Cooperatives. For the vice chair, Director Romulo T. Martin of the PUP Center for Huma Development replaced Secretary for Political Affairs Jose Ma. Rufino. Elected secretary was Sister Marietta Demelino of the PUP Institute of Cooperatives and for treasurer, Dr. Felina Bravo. The board of directors is composed of Joffre Balce, executive director of the Foundation for Sustainable Society Inc.;Rico Geron, general manager of the Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative, Batangas City; Imelda Magabilen, general manager of the United Sugarcane, Planters of Davao Multi-purpose Cooperative; Dr. Oscar Tayco, executive officer of the Cooperative Union of Southern Tagalog/Cavite Union of Cooperatives; and Carlito Teccson, president and vice chair of the Limcoma Rural Bank.

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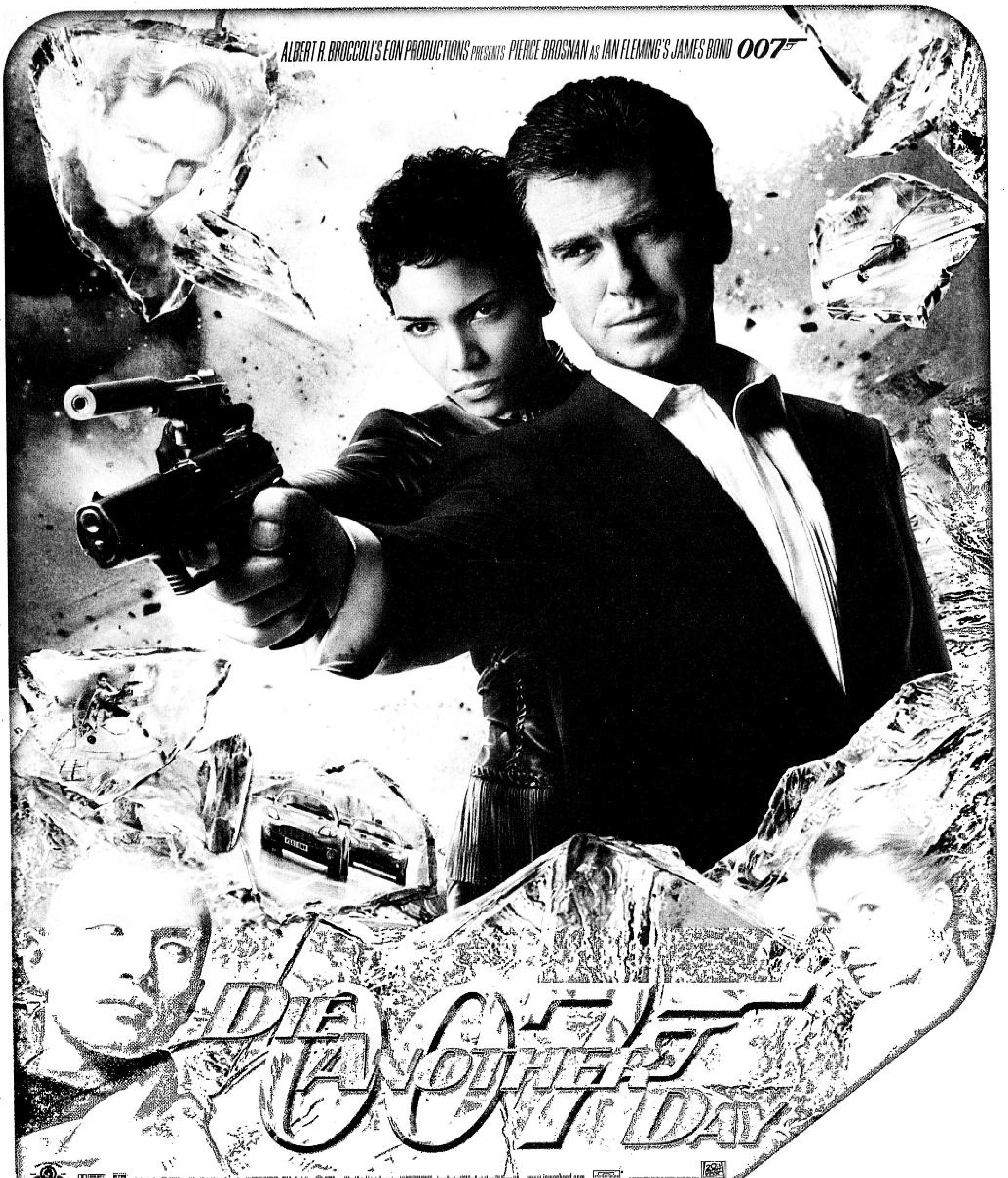
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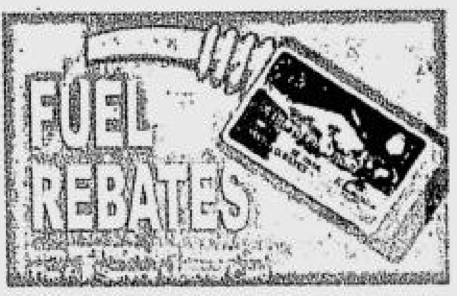
Ayala, Metro to sign deal today

Story of Page B2



8-month OFW remittances up 22.6%

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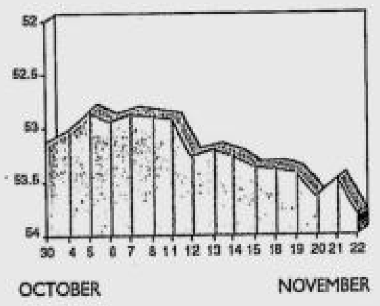

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As of 5 p.m., Nov. 22, 2002

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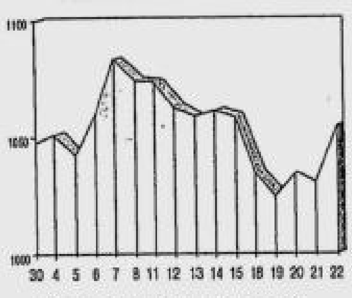
STOCK MARKET

Stocks post biggest rise in 3 months

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

TECHNICAL buying at beaten-down levels drove shares to their biggest gains in more than three months yesterday after big bounces in US and regional markets, traders said.

Players also ignored the peso's weakness and concerns about the government's swelling budget deficit.

But the market's rise may be short-lived, traders said, as its fundamentals were still weak and investors were looking for short-term returns from battered stocks.

Dominant phone firm PLDT was the top gainer, rising 5.88 percent or P15 to P270.after its American Depositary Receipts added 3.83 percent in New York on Thursday.

"There was a carryover from the rise in the US market. Most of the

STOCKS/ B2

By Clarissa S. Batino

MORE than 5 million Filipinos working overseas as nurses, IT professionals, teachers, caregivers and the like sent a total of $4.832 billion to their families in the first eight months of 2002, up from $3.94 billion a year ago.

The average year-on-year growth in dollar remittances, however, continued to slow down as of August when the eight-month level grew by only 22.6 percent from 24.8 percent during the seven-month period and the 40 percent average in the first half, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

In August, Filipinos working abroad sent home $568 million or substantially higher than the $121 million in July and almost at par with the June level of $525 million.

Still, the trend had been decreasing from remittances of $791 million in May, $863 million in April and $905 million in March.

Of the total, about 80 percent of the remittances came from the United States as even the funds coming from the Middle East where more than a million Filipinos are employed pass through correspondent banks in the United States before these are wired to Manila.

The substantial dollar inflows from Filipino workers boosted the country's income accounts as of August to a surplus of $2.906 billion, up by 54.5 percent from the previous year.

The income account reflects the flow of funds largely due to trade in services, a component of the current account and one of the two biggest items in the country's balance of payments.

In the first eight months, the BOP continued to register a surplus of $903 million against a deficit of $1.133 billion the previous year.

An indicator of investor confidence and the country's ability to settle its obligations, the BOP is influenced by the current account that reflects movement in trade, and the capital and financial account that mirrors the flow of investment and borrowings.

The BSP credited the stronger overseas remittances this year for the sustained surplus in external payments. By year's end, the central bank believed the OFW inflow would hit an all-time high of $8 billion.

Using data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the BSP noted that the number of Filipinos who were freshly hired and re-hired grew by 3.9 percent to 636,024 as of August against the previous year.

The central bank said that aside from the Middle East, the newly hired and re-hired Filipinos also trooped to Europe, United States and other parts of Asia.

Gov't agencies move to curb text-based gambling

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has joined hands with the state watchdogs on gaming, telecommunications, movies and television to put in check the proliferation of gambling and marketing promos done through text or short messaging services.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas said the DTI has decided to tap other agencies in its campaign against text-based gambling and promos to widen its reach beyond areas outside its jurisdiction.

The DTI maintained that the text-based games or promos are basically gambling ploys in the guise of marketing or entertainment meant to raise volume of text messages or awareness of a product.

The DTI will sign a memorandum of agreement with Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) that would determine their respective jurisdictions and responsibilities in monitoring text-based games and promos.

Roxas said the DTI, whose role is to review applications and mechanics of text-based sales promotions and grant permits, does not allow sales promotion involving gambling or that carry elements of wagering—a prize money, chance, and consideration.

He said Pagcor would be responsible for determining whether games and sales promotion through SMS were essentially gambling and therefore require a separate permit.

The MTRCB has agreed to ban advertisements of text-based promotions that have been identified by Pagcor as gambling. NTC will be responsible for terminating the transmission of text-based games if found by Pagcor to be a game of chance.

Roxas said he wanted to tame the wildly popular text-based games and promos mainly for misleading the public on the costs and mechanics of joining these interactive ploys.

Roxas said telecommunication providers and marketing agents abuse consumers by failing to disclose that the text messages in games and promos cost more

GOV'T/ B2

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Too late the 'hilot'

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SOMETHING still bothers me about that Supreme Court decision against Meralco. And that is, assuming I choose boxers over briefs, will business outfits give me back my money?

The court said Meralco must refund its customers, and the biggest customers of Meralco are business establishments.

Thanks to the Supreme Court decision, therefore, the factories and office buildings, not to mention the shopping malls, will get a big windfall from Meralco.

Those business establishments must now refund us. We already paid them higher prices for their goods and services, based on the "overcharging" rates of Meralco.

My problem is, shall we or shall we not file a class suit against the entire business sector to get back our money? Well, nobody said life is easy.

* * *

IT'S only easy to see why some groups are happy about the Supreme Court ruling. It serves as a massage to the tired pockets of consumers.

But then again, I'm not sure if we can still get back our money from all the business establishments that will benefit the most from the Supreme Court ruling.

Factories and malls, even those that sell smuggled goods, can charge any price that the market can bear. They do not have limits on their earnings.

I'm not sure if the Supreme Court, as the ultimate accountant, can force them to give back our money. Maybe it's just a case of too late the *hilot*.

* * *

BUT being a public utility company, Meralco must observe a limit on its earnings. The limit is imposed by the so-called ERC, which used to be the ERB.

To compute the earnings that companies like Meralco are allowed to make, both the ERB and the ERC use a mathematical invention called RORB.

Five years ago, in 1997, the ERB ruled that Meralco could not include income taxes as operating cost in computing the RORB.

Although Meralco has been doing it since the time of Tita Cory starting in 1986, the saintly ERB ruled that its own ruling was retroactive only to 1994.

Thanks a lot. Still, it's too late the halo.

* * *

THAT was actually something a lot of electric utilities all over the world were doing. A lot of electric utilities put income tax as operating cost to compute their RORB.

It was something that other electric companies here were also doing. In June 1997, for example, the ERB allowed San Fernando Electric to do exactly just that.

But only nine months later, when it came to the case of Meralco, the ERB changed its mind. It ruled that Meralco was overcharging for doing the same thing.

My advice to you is, do not attempt to perform RORB in your home. It contains highly volatile materials. It can explode in the face of your mother-in-law.

* * *

LOOK at that—how life can change for Meralco in only nine months. I know I can already become a father in nine months, and make Cardinal Sin and Tita Cory happy.

I just don't know how they propose to control the growth of our population. The only way, based on their approach, is for us to control our sexual urges. Tall order, boss.

Of course, the latest alliance between Cardinal Sin and Tita Cory may have something to do with Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

He made a sizzling statement on population control. Why don't we make more choices available to people and just allow them to choose? This man will fry in hell.

* * *

IF plans do not miscarry, the economic team of this cute administration will be rated by an economic council. Who will rate the economic council is not yet clear at this point.

In running the economy, this cute administration has no problem in policy. The biggest problem is security and peace and order, which eat up business confidence.

The economic team even has to revise their economic targets, precisely because things are not looking up that well in the security front.

Like it or not, the economic indicators are doing just fine. Interest rates are at their lowest for the longest time. Inflation is tame. And I'm starting to get over my fantasy about Assunta.

* * *

IT seems the biggest problem, among all the economic indicators, is the budget deficit. It is going up too fast and too far.

But if you listen to the battalion of doctorate degree holders in Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University, budget deficit is not bad on its own.

The economists said the money only has to go to things like infrastructure, which can help the economy raise its productivity in the future.

That's one of the views in the academe. Unfortunately, while they agree in business, they have a problem with their anatomical spheroids. They are gone.

* * *

LISTEN to Antonio Abacan, president of Metrobank, the biggest bank in the country. He said when it comes to the budget deficit, business has a psychological block.

In other words, the business sector has decided a long time ago that budget deficits were bad, and they remain bad today, no matter what the indicators say.

As I said, the main indicators of how bad the deficit is affecting economy, which are interest rates and inflation rates, are not going crazy.

That's why to guys like Abacan, the government somehow must find a way to remove such a psychological block.

The question is, how in the world can this cute administration do that? It is simple. All it has to do is to start collecting taxes strictly from the business sector.

They are biggest tax evaders in the first place. And they will not even refund us the money that they will get from Meralco.

Ayala, Metro to sign deal today

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA Land Inc. and United Laboratories Inc.'s Jose Campos will sign today a memorandum of agreement that will allow them to acquire a 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., persons familiar with the matter revealed yesterday.

Sources said the agreement would let a joint venture equally owned by Ayala Land and Campos take 55 percent control of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. from debt-ridden Metro Pacific Corp.

Metro Pacific, local property flagship of First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, is Bonifacio Land's parent firm. Bonifacio Land is lead developer of the Fort Bonifacio Global City, a 150-hectare commercial area straddling the Makati financial district.

The deal will allow the Ayala Land-Campos group to settle the principal amount of $90 million that Metro Pacific owed First Pacific's offshore unit, Larouge BV, that was secured by a 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land.

Including interest, the loan has reached $105 million, buy Ayala Land and Campos will shoulder only the principal amount.

INQUIRER sources said the deal would dilute Metro Pacific's stake in Bonifacio Land from 73 percent to roughly 23 percent, which would no longer be enough to get a board seat in FBDC.

Metro Pacific, however, will be left with 10 hectares of Fort Bonifacio, down from the 20 hectares originally projected at the early stages of its negotiations with the Ayala Land-Campos group.

There are also some other smaller debt transactions tied to the package.

The Larouge loan was part of an aborted deal between First Pacific and retail tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.

Gokongwei and First Pacific agreed in June to form a joint venture that would have held Metro Pacific's 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land.

Had the deal pushed through, the joint venture would have assumed a $105-million debt that Metro Pacific owed Larouge.

Yazaki-Torres earmarks P1.6B, sees rising demand in US, Japan, Europe

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE auto parts maker Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing Inc. is spending over P1.6 billion in five years to double production and meet rising demand for wire harnesses from leading carmakers in the United States, Japan and Europe.

Yazaki-Torres reported that from 2002 to 2006, it would set aside some P1.5 billion to acquire land, building and machinery and around P125 million as a working capital.

Yazaki-Torres has already implemented 10 expansion programs since 1977, making it the country's largest auto parts maker.

The company inaugurated yesterday a new satellite production facility at the Lima Industrial Park in Batangas.

It has already developed to its full capacity its 20-hectare factory in Calamba, Laguna.

Yazaki-Torres has unveiled a new P300-million factory in Laguna, which will boost capacity by 29 percent. The company can produce wiring harnesses for 75,000 vehicles a month.

The company shipped out some $180 million worth of exports to the United States, Japan and Europe, and company officials were bullish that demand for auto parts, specifically wire harnesses, would continue to grow steadily.

Yazaki-Torres president Feliciano Torres said the company was targeting to boost exports by 28 percent to $230 million next year, including $40 million in exports from its new plant.

Yazaki-Torres vice chair Toshihiro Suzuki said that demand for automotive parts were likely to remain robust in view of the projected 3-percent growth in worldwide demand for motor vehicles.

Yazaki-Torres is a 60-40 joint venture between the Torres family and Yazaki Corp. of Japan.

PDI bags Anzcham award

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer's Tina Arceo-Dumlao won the Australian and New Zealand Ambassadors' Choice Award for her articles "Big, gold belt buckle gives rise to RP-Aussie business venture," "Create an environment where people like to work," and "Aussie firm aims to sell more via counter clerks."

She received a week's trip to Australia and New Zealand and a plaque from Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce, New Zealand Ambassador Terry Baker, Phillippines-Australia Business Council chair Leo Dominguez and Philippines-New Zealand Business Council chair Rene Concepcion.

Business World's Leilani Gallardo is this year's winner of the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Awards for Outstanding Journalism.

Arceo-Dumlao has been with the Inquirer for six years. She is currently a desk editor for the business section.

BPI Q3 net income hits ₱1.3B, up 18%

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands registered a P1.3-billion net income in the third quarter of the year, a hefty 18.3-percent income from P1.1 billion in the same quarter in 2001.

BPI attributed its improved net income outlook to the P288-million increase in its non-interest income, up 19.1 percent. Net income for nine months ending September 2002 was P3.97 billion.

Non-interest income included gains from foreign exchange and securities trading, which contributed the biggest share of P139 million. Service charges and commissions came in second with P56 million derived from asset management and trust fees, P26 million; service charges, P17 million; and, underwriting fees, P14 million.

The subsidiaries also performed remarkably well, with P48 million in pretax net income from a break-even position last year.

The other incomes were up by P44 million due to higher miscellaneous income.

Net interest income was P335 million, 9.6 percent lower than last year, but its impact was cushioned by lower provision for probable losses, operating expenses and income taxes.

Net interest margin fell below the 4-percent average recorded in the previous three quarters and was 24 basis points below last year.

Tighter spreads resulted from the overall environment of dropping interest rates which in turn led to the depricing of both loans and deposits.

Farmix, Espiritu told to settle money row themselves

THE FARMIX and Espiritu groups should settle their differences over money and not drag United Overseas Bank of the Philippines or the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas into their private dispute.

In a statement, UOB Philippines confirmed that it had bought the 33-percent interest of the Espiritu group in the bank, giving it almost 100-percent ownership now allowed by law.

Farmix still has 258 shares equivalent to less than one percent of the bank's 35,200,000 shares outstanding.

Farmix had said it had been "deliberately excluded" from the negotiations between UOB Phippines and the Espiritu group.

However, UOB Philippines said this was because Farmix served notice that it had withdrawn from the Espiritu group.

Having received such notice, UOB Philippines could not have included Farmix in its settlement negotiations with the Espiritu group.

UOB Philippines then negotiated only with the Espiritu Group and decided to separately address Farmix's position.

The dispute stemmed from a private arrangement within the original Espiritu group, which included Farmix.

Farmix claimed it has a 10.44 -percent share of the 1.4 billion receivables, one of the bases in negotiations with the Espiritu group.

But based on bank records prior to UOB of Singapore taking a majority stake in UOB Philippines, Farmix's share was only 7.66 percent.

To protect both Farmix and the bank from any intra-corporate problems, UOB Philippines even set aside the amount intended for Farmix's share. The amount was based on the same formula used in setting with the Espiritu group.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, November 22, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	14,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	39.5	40.5	39.5	40	596,300
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	1,260
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26	26.5	26	26.5	86,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	30.5	31	124,100
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	4,740
Philippine National Bank	25	26	25	26	35,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	8,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	30,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1260	1260	1260	1260	5,230
Sun Life Financial Serv.	915	920	915	920	3,270
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14.5	14	14.5	2,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.38	0.38	2,200,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	407.5	410	407.5	410	52,040
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.011	0.011	11,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	130,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.215	0.225	0.215	0.225	2,840,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	262.5	282.5	260	270	388,510
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.01	10,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	9.4	10.5	9.4	10.5	157,000
Manila Electric Co. B	11	12	11	12	4,539,700
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.6	1,650,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	5,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	220,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1,300,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.24	2.3	2.24	2.3	58,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	185,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	110,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	116,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15	15	15	15	4,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	161,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	59	58.5	58.5	112,900
San Miguel Corp. B	64.5	64.5	64.5	64.5	180,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.85	1,705,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	300,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.3	2.3	1,225,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	3,550,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.26	2.4	2.26	2.4	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.15	3,800,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	210,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	11	11.25	11	11	251,600
Ionics Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.2	388,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	1,170,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.215	0.22	4,250,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	40,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	10,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.2	4.8	4.1	4.8	20,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	389,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	18	18	18	18	7,300
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	730,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	2	2	1.5	1.5	26,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	15.25	15.25	15	15	102,900
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	3.55	4.3	3.55	4.3	11,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.2	5	5.2	13,870,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,000,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	850,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.89	0.93	0.89	0.93	4,590,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.92	1.92	210,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	380,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	444,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	1,800,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	160,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,100,000
Interport Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000

CURRENCIES

Nov. 21, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.997705	1.000000	53.592000
Japan	Yen	0.008136	0.008155	0.437000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.578170	1.581800	84.771800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.127928	0.128222	6.871700
Switzerland	Franc	0.680238	0.681803	36.539200
Canada	Dollar	0.632540	0.633995	33.977100
Singapore	Dollar	0.563994	0.565291	30.295100
Australia	Dollar	0.560319	0.561608	30.097700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.647136	2.653224	142.191600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.266055	0.266667	14.291200
Brunei	Dollar	0.562087	0.563380	30.192700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000111	0.005900
Thailand	Baht	0.022983	0.023036	1.234500
UAE	Dirham	0.271669	0.272294	14.592800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.002300	53.715300
Argentina	Peso	0.285058	0.285714	15.312000
Brazil	REAL	0.283278	0.283930	15.216400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134588	0.134898	7.229500
India	Rupee	0.020738	0.020786	1.114000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.262589	0.263193	14.105000
Mexico	New Peso	0.098597	0.098824	5.296200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.500856	0.502008	26.903600
Norway	Kroner	0.136876	0.137191	7.352300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017128	0.017167	0.920000
South Africa	Rand	0.104069	0.104308	5.590100
Korea	Won	0.000830	0.000832	0.044600
Sweden	Kroner	0.111204	0.111460	5.973400
Syria	Pound	0.019372	0.019417	1.040600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.028794	0.028860	1.546700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000753	0.000755	0.040500

Gov't agencies . . .

From page B1

than regular SMS, to inform consumers that their entries have been accepted, and to adopt a transparent process in choosing winners. The DTI decided to act on the rising popularity of text-based games and promos after mounting complaints from consumers that they were duped into spending a lot in joining these contests and promos with no clear way of determining the winner.

Stocks post biggest . . .

From page B1

regional markets are also higher today," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

The Philippine stock index jumped 23.96 points or 2.32 percent to close at 1,054.80 points, but volume was modest at P364.65 million versus the P577.19 million on Thursday.

Gainers beat losers by a margin of nearly three to one.

It was the biggest percentage- and point-gain for the index since Aug. 13 when stocks jumped on hopes of an interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

Meralco surged 10.53 percent or P1 to end at P10.50 and the utility's B-shares, which are open to foreigners, rose 6.67 percent or 75 centavos to P12.

Traders said Meralco was just coming off eight-year lows posted on Monday and would remain volatile until the Supreme Court makes a final decision on billions of pesos the firm has been ordered to pay back to customers for years of overcharging. *Reuters*

Gov't OKs halt to tariff cuts on some products

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COMMITTEE on Tariff and Related Matters (CTRM) has agreed to maintain the duties for non-Asean countries (most favored nation or MFN) on a majority of products while pushing through with the tariff cuts in the Asean Free Trade Agreement next year.

This was disclosed yesterday by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas who also reported that the CTRM has decided to defer its decision to exempt petrochemical products and other industries from the Afta, which would reduce duties on all goods traded within the region to 15 percent.

After the meeting of the government's economic managers yesterday, Canlas said the CTRM recommended to freeze MFN duties next year (they have been unchanged since 2000) except for goods not locally produced and locally produced but in insufficient quantity. A source said the CTRM junked a proposed across-the-board freeze on MFN because there were raw materials and semi-processed goods that where scheduled to have their MFN duties slashed next year.

Canlas said the CTRM has also agreed to proceed next year with the reduction in tariffs on goods—from raw materials to finished products—which were mostly imported despite the impact on customs revenue collection.

Canlas said granting these goods token duties of zero to one percent could serve as an economic stimulus because it would lessen the cost of raw materials and intermediate goods of manufacturers. Roughly 60 percent of all Afta goods are set to be tariff-free next year.

The CTRM has approved the implementation of the country's trade commitments under Afta although it has deferred action on the proposal to keep resin duties at 15 percent.

The Department of Trade and Industry called for a postponement pending a meeting between downstream, midstream and upstream industries in petrochemicals to map out a mutually acceptable tariff schedule program.

The downstream or finished plastic product makers have opposed the government's decision to delay the reduction in duties on resins from 15 percent to 5 percent next year unless the government also raises their duties currently pegged at 5 percent.

Canlas said the CTRM's decision would be forwarded to the National Economic and Development Authority board chaired by the President for final approval.

WANT TO EARN PLENTY OF MONEY?

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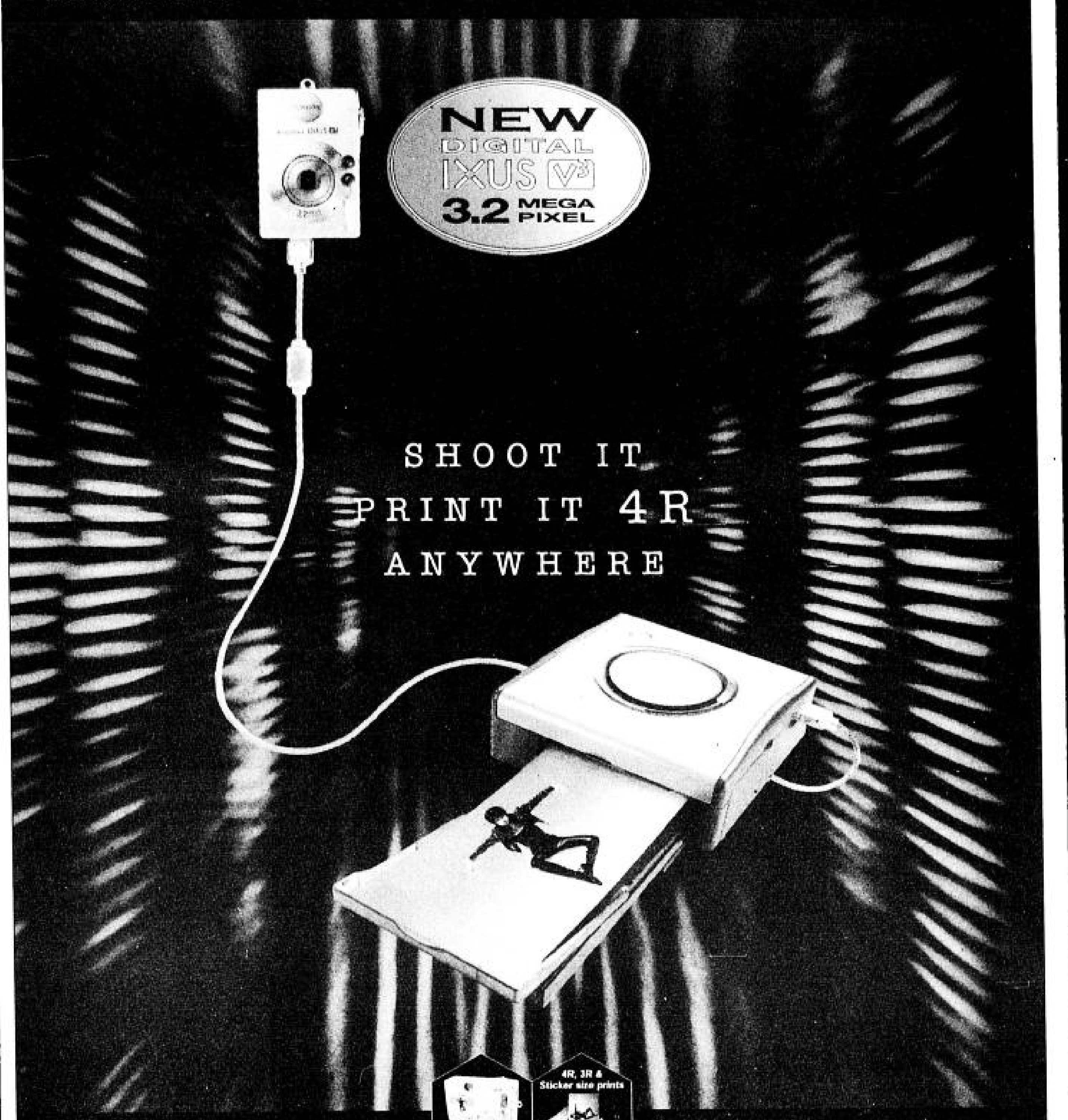

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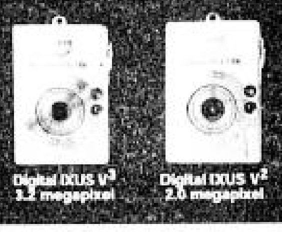
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SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang ● Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

It's flu season: Are you prepared?

By Charles E. Buban

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

YOU feel miserable—you are feverish, your head hurts, you feel extremely tired, your joints and muscles ache, your throat is sore and your nose is stuffy.

While these symptoms can put you out for several days, you don't bother to see a doctor because you think the condition will just go away.

But what if your condition lingered or, worse, developed complications?

Influenza, or flu, should never be taken lightly.

"Most people who get the flu will recover in seven to 10 days, but some will develop life-threatening complications such as pneumonia, bronchitis and sinus and ear infections. Care should be taken when dealing with the flu," advises Dr. Gary Sy of Life Extension Medical Center.

He says many people think they only have a bad cold when what they actually have is the flu.

Says Sy: "It's impossible to tell if you have the flu based on symptoms alone. Only doctors can perform tests to see if you have the flu."

A physician should be consulted if symptoms continue for more than a week or if one improves only to get worse after a few days.

People at risk

Even healthy people can get the flu and serious problems from the disease can happen at any age.

There are people who are more at risk during influenza epidemics and the flu season. These include the elderly, those with poor immunity, those with conditions such as diabetes, lung, kidney, heart or liver disease, and those staying in institutions.

"A flu can make chronic health problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks while they have the flu and the condition of those with chronic congestive heart failure may worsen," says Sy.

The flu, which is caused by several strains of the influenza virus, is contagious.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a person can start spreading the flu one day before he even experiences flu symptoms. Adults can continue passing on the virus to others for another three to seven days after symptoms start. Children can pass on the virus for longer than seven days.

Symptoms start one to four days after the virus enters the body, although some people can be infected with the flu virus but exhibit no symptoms. These people can still spread the virus to others.

Spreading the virus

The flu is transmitted when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks, sending the virus into the air. Other people inhale the virus, which enters the nose, throat or lungs and then immediately multiplies.

Sometimes, the flu is spread when a person touches a surface that has the flu virus on it and then touches his nose or mouth. Small children are especially prone to this kind of transmission.

Because of the nature of the virus transmission, it is not unusual to see flu epidemics in workplaces and schools. Nursing homes are also at risk.

During colder months

Technically, influenza is not bound by seasons and can occur all year round in tropical climates, says Sy.

However, flu appears to peak during November through April. It is not entirely understood why influenza occurs mostly during these months but it is likely a result of several factors. Some researchers believe that cold outdoor air as well as heated indoor air could cause the drying of the respiratory tissues and this may make people more susceptible to respiratory viruses.

There is no specific treatment for the flu, and antibiotics (like penicillin) don't cure it.

Sy advises those who are sick to rest and take plenty of liquids like water, fruit juice and soup.

One must also avoid smoking and taking alcohol.

Flu sufferers can also take medication to relieve flu symptoms.

Says Sy: "The best way to prevent the flu is to get an influenza vaccine (flu shot). But because of the many strains of influenza virus, there's no guaranteed protection."

Antiviral drugs

According to the US CDC, studies have shown that antiviral drugs can shorten by about one day the time a person infected with influenza feels ill. But treatment should start during the first two days of illness.

There are four antiviral drugs for the flu, and all require a doctor's prescription. They may cause side effects.

Sy advises parents not to give aspirin to children or teenagers who have flu-like symptoms without first checking with their doctor.

"Giving aspirin to children and teenagers who have influenza can cause a rare but serious illness called Reye's syndrome. Children or teenagers with the flu should instead take medicines that do not contain aspirin to relieve flue symptoms."

Reye's syndrome is a sudden, sometimes fatal, disease of the brain with degeneration of the liver. A child with Reye's syndrome tends to be unusually quiet, lethargic, sleepy and usually vomits. In the second stage, the lethargy deepens, the child is confused, combative and delirious. Left untreated, things get worse—the child's consciousness is greatly decreased and he falls into a coma and suffers seizures. Eventually, the child dies.

'Stomach flu' not influenza

MANY people use the term "stomach flu" to describe illnesses with nausea, vomiting or diarrhea that are not caused by the flu virus, but can be caused by many different viruses, bacteria or even parasites.

While vomiting, diarrhea and being "sick to your stomach" can sometimes be related to the flu—particularly in children—these problems are rarely the main symptoms of influenza.

The flu is a respiratory disease and not a stomach or intestinal disease.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Experts warn vs common treatment for myopia

PARIS—The conventional way of fixing short-sightedness, by "undercorrecting" the prescription for glasses, can dramatically worsen one's eyesight and may even lead to blindness, a study says.

The research, conducted on 94 children in Malaysia, may help explain why myopia has become rampant, the British weekly New Scientist reported.

For more than half a century, optometrists have been routinely undercorrecting myopia when prescribing glasses or contact lenses. However, they have good intentions for doing this.

In short-sighted people, the eye muscles cannot flatten the lens in the front of the eye so that it focuses light directly onto the retina, the wall of light-sensitive cells at the back of the eyeball. Instead, the point of focus is in front of the retina, which creates a blurred image.

Glasses or contact lenses can fully correct this by shifting the focal point back to the retina.

Makes vision worse

The problem is that when people wearing this prescription look at close objects such as books, the focus point is usually behind the retina.

The assumption is that this refocusing effort causes the eyeball to elongate—a movement that not only makes distance vision worse but also boosts the risk of sight-threatening eye ailments such as glaucoma and retinal detachment.

Undercorrection, according to theory, should help stop elongation.

Optometrists routinely do this by prescribing a lens that focuses light from distant objects just in front of the retina, rather than exactly on it.

The team, led by Daniel O'Leary of Anglia Polytechnic University in eastern England, carried out its study with the initial idea of confirming the undercorrection theory.

He and colleagues at the National University of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur undercorrected the sight of 47 child volunteers and fully corrected the sight of 47 others.

They were astonished to find that among the 47 undercorrected children, the eyeball elongated faster—their eyesight got worse.

Study stopped

"The study was meant to run for three years but after two years, when we found out we were making the children's eyes worse, we had to stop it prematurely," O'Leary told the British weekly. "Short-sighted people need to know (undercorrection is) not the thing to do."

Eye experts are puzzled over why myopia has become so common, especially among children who spend a lot of time reading or doing close work.

Various factors, including diet, have been mooted as the cause, but O'Leary points the finger at the fashion for undercorrection, which has been explored in scientific research just twice.

The first was a study of 33 Japanese schoolchildren back in 1965, while the other was on chicks in 1990s—both have been dismissed as lacking rigor or relevance.

O'Leary speculates that undercorrection is dangerous because the eye cannot tell whether the focal point is in front of the retina or behind it—it just grows backward if the image is out of focus.

That means any blurred vision will make the myopia worse.

"No glasses is the worst option of all," he said. "But don't undercorrect. Go for full correction." *AFP*

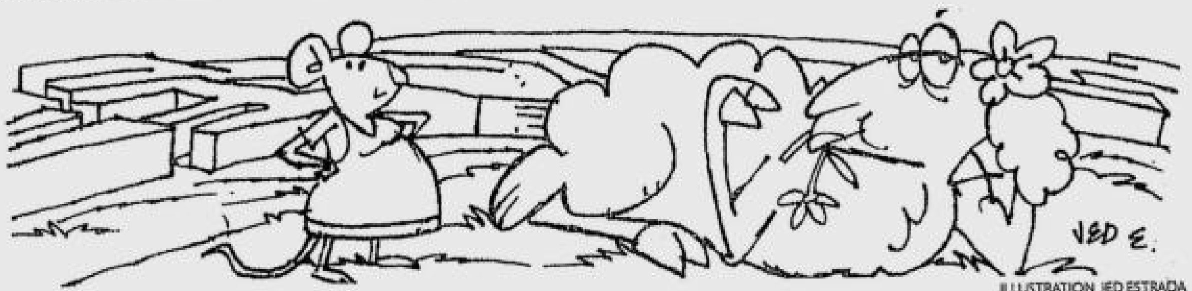


ILLUSTRATION JED ESTRADA

Of smart mother rats and gay sheep

(Second of a series)

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

LAST week we looked at the factors involved when research studies use animals as test subjects. Scientists do not simply decide to experiment on dogs or mice. Their studies have to be planned well in advance to make sure all the necessary equipment and safety precautions are available and are put in place.

This week we look at recent studies that involve animal research to see what kind of experiments warrant animal use. The annual meeting of the Society of Neuroscience in Orlando, Florida earlier this month included presentations from researchers who worked with sheep and rats to study two different aspects of the brain.

Craig Kinsley's team from the University of Richmond in Virginia studied the effect of motherhood on the brain. It used three groups of rats in the study: rats that had had two litters (given birth twice), rats that had had one litter (given birth once) and rats that had never had any.

Food was hidden in a maze and each rat ran the maze several times over two years to test their memory skills and learning ability.

Effect of pregnancy

In Kinsley's own words: "Females who had two reproductive experiences were able to learn and remember the maze better than those with one (litter) or zero (litter). Females with zero (litter) were not able to do the maze as well as those with one (pregnancy)."

This leads to the scientists' theory that during pregnancy, hormones wash over the brain and somehow change the way it's wired, possibly even passing on these altered genes to their offspring.

Kinsley's team then looked at the rats' brains, specifically the hippocampus, which is associated with learning and memory.

The team found that rats which had had more litters had lower levels of a precursor protein, the kind of levels that in humans would indicate a lesser likelihood of being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

The scientists' conclusion? Motherhood keeps the brain so active it prevents brain decline and senility.

Benefits of child-raising

Kinsley also hypothesizes a relationship between brain function and female involvement in raising a child, saying that a mother or grandmother who is deeply involved in raising, educating and protecting a child is less likely to get Alzheimer's than less-involved mothers.

Trying to establish relationships between brain structure and function and gender is not new to the scientific community.

A few years ago, newspapers all over the world talked about the discovery that the brains of gay men were physically different from that of heterosexual men.

Specifically, the hypothalamus, or the region of the brain associated with metabolism, was found to be smaller in gay men than in heterosexual men. That study was discredited, however, because the scientists had looked at the brains of HIV-infected patients, not healthy individuals.

So Charles Roselli and his colleagues at the Oregon Health & Science University, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture's Sheep Experiment Station, did a study of their own. Only this time they studied the brains of gay and straight sheep.

Gay sheep do exist

The obvious question here is: Do gay rams really exist?

Roselli says yes. "They don't pair-bond, but they are exclusive. They don't court or mate with females; they only court and mate with males."

Like Kinsley, Roselli theorizes that the hormones enveloping a ewe's brain during pregnancy alter the brain's structure, and these altered genes may be passed on to its offspring, affecting its brain structure and possibly contributing to its sexual preferences.

So Roselli et al. took healthy drug-free sheep brains—both gay and straight—and checked for any differences between the two. They found no size difference, but they did note that heterosexual rams had higher levels of the enzyme aromatase in their hypothalamuses than did homosexual rams.

Aromatase happens to be involved in how testosterone acts.

Roselli, however, takes pains not to say that gay rams have less testosterone (and are therefore less "manly") than straight rams. There may be other neurons at work, he says, but no one has discovered them yet.

Kinsley and Roselli are trying to find a relationship between gender-oriented roles and brain structure and function, each using an animal model to prove his theory.

Their research has been approved by their respective organizations, but does the public approve of their methods? If animal research is only justified by the need to save human lives, do either of their studies pass muster?

(Comments and conclusions next week)

Laughter still the best way to health and less stress

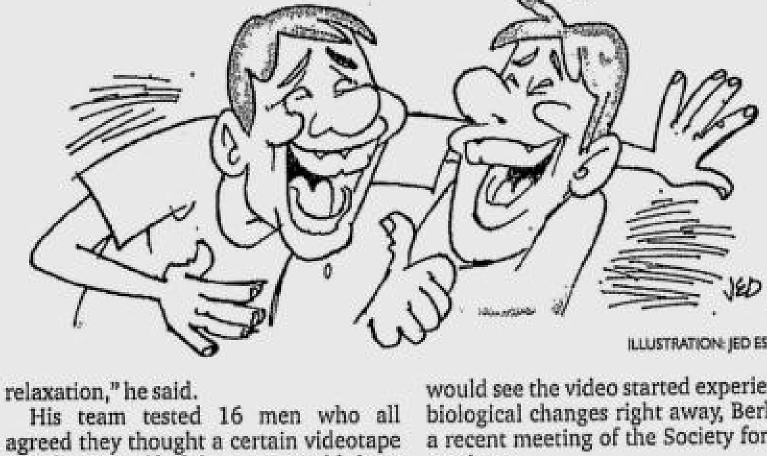


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

WASHINGTON—Laughter may be the best medicine, but even looking forward to having a good laugh can boost the immune system and reduce stress, US researchers said.

Just anticipating a happy, funny event can raise levels of endorphins and other pleasure and relaxation-inducing hormones and lower production of stress hormones, a team at the University of California Irvine said.

"This stuff is real," said study leader Lee Berk, an assistant professor of family medicine and researcher in complementary and alternative medicine.

"This study shows that even knowing you will be involved in a positive humorous event days in advance reduces levels of stress hormones in the blood and increases levels of chemicals known to aid relaxation," he said.

His team tested 16 men who all agreed they thought a certain videotape was funny. Half of them were told three days in advance they would watch it.

Those who knew in advance they would see the video started experiencing biological changes right away, Berk told a recent meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.

When the men watched the video, levels of cortisol, a stress hormone, fell by 39 percent, Berk found. Epinephrine, also known as adrenaline, fell by 70 percent.

Levels of the feel-good hormone endorphin rose by 27 percent and growth hormone levels rose by 87 percent.

"Growth hormone is very beneficial to the immune system," Berk said.

These all suggest that anticipation of a funny event can lower stress and stimulate the immune system, Berk said.

He said he had to work with a small group of similar men because he could not decide for them what would be funny. "Say you can't stand Laurel and Hardy—watching a slapstick Laurel and Hardy video would be stressful for you," he said.

"This group picked a fellow who uses the 'sledgeamatic'—a big sledgehammer—and smashes fruit," Berk added.

Berk and other researchers had already shown that actually watching a funny video or just laughing at a joke could make healthful changes in the levels of hormones involved in stress and lower blood pressure. In 2000, a team at the University of Maryland found out that people who reported using humor more often were less likely to have had heart attacks.

But this is the first time that someone has shown that anticipation of having fun has similar effects, Berk said.

"You have been thinking about it all day, so you experience a change in biology even before you get there," Berk said.

"That is therapeutic."

Berk said the finding strengthens the advice that everyone lighten up a little to live longer. "Anticipation is half or two-thirds the fun," he said. *Reuters*

More good news on RP's science front

(Last of three parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

FOR THE PAST two weeks we have been looking at several local developments in science and technology—agriculture, nutrition, metals, weather forecasting, energy, recycling and so on. We conclude this series with the following five bits of good news:

Local cures for skin infections. Because of the vagaries of El Niño, infections abound—respiratory and otherwise. Skin diseases like *an-an* are also increasing.

According to reporter Pinky Marcelo, "*An-an* is a relatively harmless skin disease, but it could still be distressing to the patient because it tends to recur, especially in hot weather, and causes the appearance of many unsightly whitish patches on afflicted body parts."

Expensive imported medicines are usually used for treatment. The good news is that a local anti-fungal solution will soon be available in the market. Made from the extract of the *akapulko* plant, the lotion has been proven effective against *an-an*. The Philippine Council for Health Research and Development recently signed an agreement with Lloyd Laboratories Inc. to manufacture *akapulko* lotion.

Watershed protection. Watersheds comprise 75 percent of our total land area and provide valuable resources such as soil, water, forest, range, wildlife and minerals. However, a lot of our watersheds have been destroyed, and together with destructive logging, burning, overgrazing, *kaingin* farming and other malpractices, this destruction has resulted in extreme soil erosion, flash floods and drought.

Geographical info

The good news is that Dr. Severo Saplaco and his team at the College of Forestry and Natural Resources at UP Los Baños have completed a study that uses computer technology to manage our watersheds. Through the geographical information system, they analyzed and modeled risks for fire, soil erosion and flood for the watersheds of the Makiling Forest Reserve, Ambuklao-Binga Watershed, Angat Watershed Reservation and Pantabangan-Carralanglan Watershed.

The information gathered was compiled into the ATLAS—both in CD-ROM and on hard copy. Because computers are used, critical data can be assessed quickly. For instance, the risk of a particular watershed for flooding can now be predicted and, hopefully, prevented.

According to researcher L. America, "The ATLAS serves as a basic reference for effective watershed management, planning, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation to ensure the conservation of the country's natural resources. It is a major step toward providing scientific information on the country's watersheds. It now serves as a model on which parallel actions on critical watersheds in our country may be based."

This research was funded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development.

Providing electricity

Micro-hydro plant. Last April, 300 households in Barangay Mahagnao, Burauen, Leyte had electricity for the first time due to a P33-million micro-hydro plant. A joint undertaking of the Department of Energy and Japan's Ministry of Economics Trade and Industry, the plant was the fourth established in Southeast Asia (the others were in Indonesia, Laos and Vietnam).

Each household is allowed a maximum consumption of 200 watts per month, enough to provide power to a light bulb, radio and TV.

According to Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, "This may be trivial for city folks, but for these families this is a very significant event. Finally, they will be able to do other things at night, such as watching their favorite TV series or continuing their handicrafts work. Children can now study their lessons with the aid of a light bulb instead of a kerosene lamp."

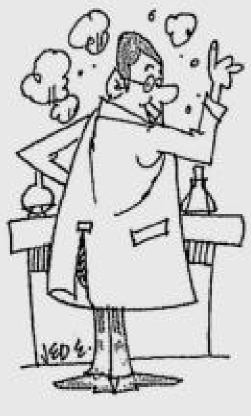


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

The good news is that the DOST is preparing livelihood programs that will make use of this plant and, as a result, increase the people's income. For example, the facility may be used as a fuel source for an *abaca* stripper plant (which currently uses diesel fuel).

Pioneering researcher

Award for marine biologist. Dr. Rhodora Azanza of the Marine Science Institute received the 2002 Hugh Greenwood Environmental Science Award from the National Academy of Science and Technology.

Dr. Azanza, who is recognized for her pioneering research on a microalgal species (*Pyrodinium bahamense var. compressum*), is internationally recognized as an expert on this organism. This species can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning, thus affecting many aquaculture and fishery sites.

The good news is that her work on algal seafarming has aided environmental conservation and provided more habitat and breeding grounds for fish and other marine life. Dr. Azanza received $1,000 cash and a plaque of recognition.

El Niño book. How does El Niño affect the Philippines? The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) and the Department of Agriculture compiled case studies and experiences on the phenomenon into the book "El Niño Southern Oscillation: Mitigating Measures."

Containing data about the last 23 El Niño episodes, the book discusses technologies developed locally to deal with this phenomenon. According to PCARRD Director Dr. Patricio Faylon, "Among the many sectors affected, the small farmers and fisherfolk greatly suffer from its devastating effects. With the information here, the good news is that the crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries sectors are deemed better prepared for the onslaught of El Niño this year."

To order copies of the book, contact Dr. Faylon at PCARRD, Paseo de Valmayor, Los Baños, Laguna, or call (049)536-0014 to 15 or 536-0017 to 20 or e-mail pcarrd@pcarrd.dost.gov.ph.

For information on any of the above developments, contact the Science and Technology Information Institute at Bicutan, Taguig, or call 837-2071 to 80 locals 2148 or 2144.

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Baby food

I AM starting my baby on solid foods and I would like to know what foods would be good for her teeth.

Teresa N.

As soon as children can grasp food they usually like to chew it. Some parents have this notion that only soft foods should be given to their baby. But some hard foods help develop the muscles and nerves the baby uses for chewing.

Don't give your baby foods that are too hard, like peanuts, but rather foods such as carrot shavings, celery strips, crisp apple bits and pear slices. They also help clean the teeth and thus could prevent cavities from forming.

(The author, a graduate of the UP College of Dentistry, is a general and cosmetic dentist licensed here and in the US. E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.)

Keeping your BP in check

By Tessa R. Salazar

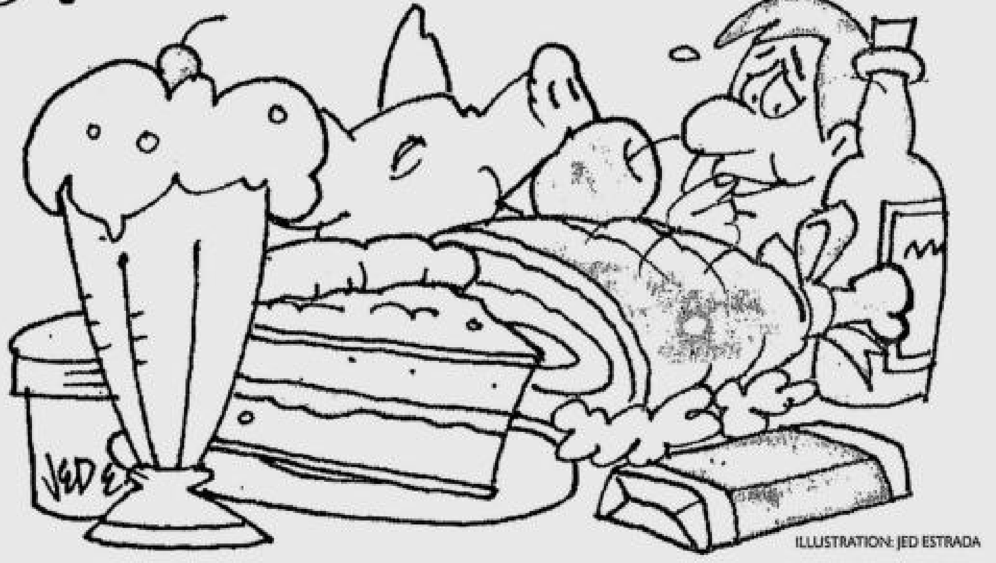


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

THIS Yuletide, people are likely to overeat and become sedentary.

Attending too many Christmas parties could increase the tendency to overeat and smoke, which eventually increases the risk of high blood pressure.

There is also the risk of sodium retention from excessive intake of salt-rich foods such as ham, cheese and imported canned goods (one preservative of which is sodium citrate). This may also increase the risk of high blood pressure.

Being emotionally excitable, coupled with smoking and drinking, may increase one's blood pressure, too.

Dr. Ramon F. Abarquez Jr., regional representative to the World Hypertension League, advised people to watch their diet during Yuletide. He said that if one is attending an evening party, he should try decreasing his food intake for breakfast and lunch. He should also exercise before going to the party.

"Those who are sedentary will retain what they eat and they'll gain weight. They will retain more salt, and retain more water. They'll get fat," he said during a symposium on the anti-hypertensive drug Preterax.

The problem is compounded, he added, when merrymakers have a family history of hypertension or vices: the father has had a heart attack or blood relatives are overweight or are diabetic or the mother was a smoker or was malnourished when she was pregnant.

"All these factors increase your risk of developing high blood pressure," he said.

'Very high' prevalence

Two in 10 Filipinos are hypertensive, a rate that, Abarquez said, is already "very high." The global prevalence for hypertension is 21 percent.

World Health Organization studies reveal that high blood pressure results in the highest mortality rate. If not controlled, high blood pressure affects vital organs: the brain, heart, kidneys and blood circulation in the lower extremities.

Abarquez also warns that if the micro-vascular vessels—the smallest blood vessels that deliver blood to the tissues—become affected, almost the entire body is affected.

"High blood pressure, by itself, will not kill you. It is the damage that it produces which kills. We have plenty of time to prevent damage to the vital organs. That is why we have to control blood pressure," said Abarquez.

Since the cause of high blood pressure cannot be predicted in an individual, treatment is often by trial-and-error.

Abarquez said no drug is 100-percent safe. Individual patients respond differently to the same drug at the same dose.

Low dose-combination

A combination of low dose drugs seems to reduce the risk of side effects while effectively lowering blood pressure.

Abarquez said a local study involving Preterax showed better blood pressure control than any combination or single drug. It also has less side effects. More importantly, it claims to improve microcirculation, which is responsible in bringing blood and nutrition to the cells.

Hypertensive individuals suffer from defective microcirculation.

Abarquez said that aside from controlling blood pressure, Preterax improves cellular nutrition and reduces damage to vital body organs due to high blood pressure.

US expert pushes for flu vaccination

VACCINATION against the flu has been repeatedly shown to reduce the incidence of flu or at least reduce its severity, and remains the most effective way of controlling it.

The World Health Organization (WHO) strongly recommends the use of vaccines as an "effective preventive measure against the flu, a potentially fatal disease."

In a special media preview, American flu expert Dr. Frederick Leon Ruben shared with Philippine journalists the latest WHO recommendations on flu vaccination. Each year, the WHO identifies the current flu strain and comes up with the recommended vaccine to combat this specific strain. For 2002-2003, the WHO has recommended the trivalent vaccine.

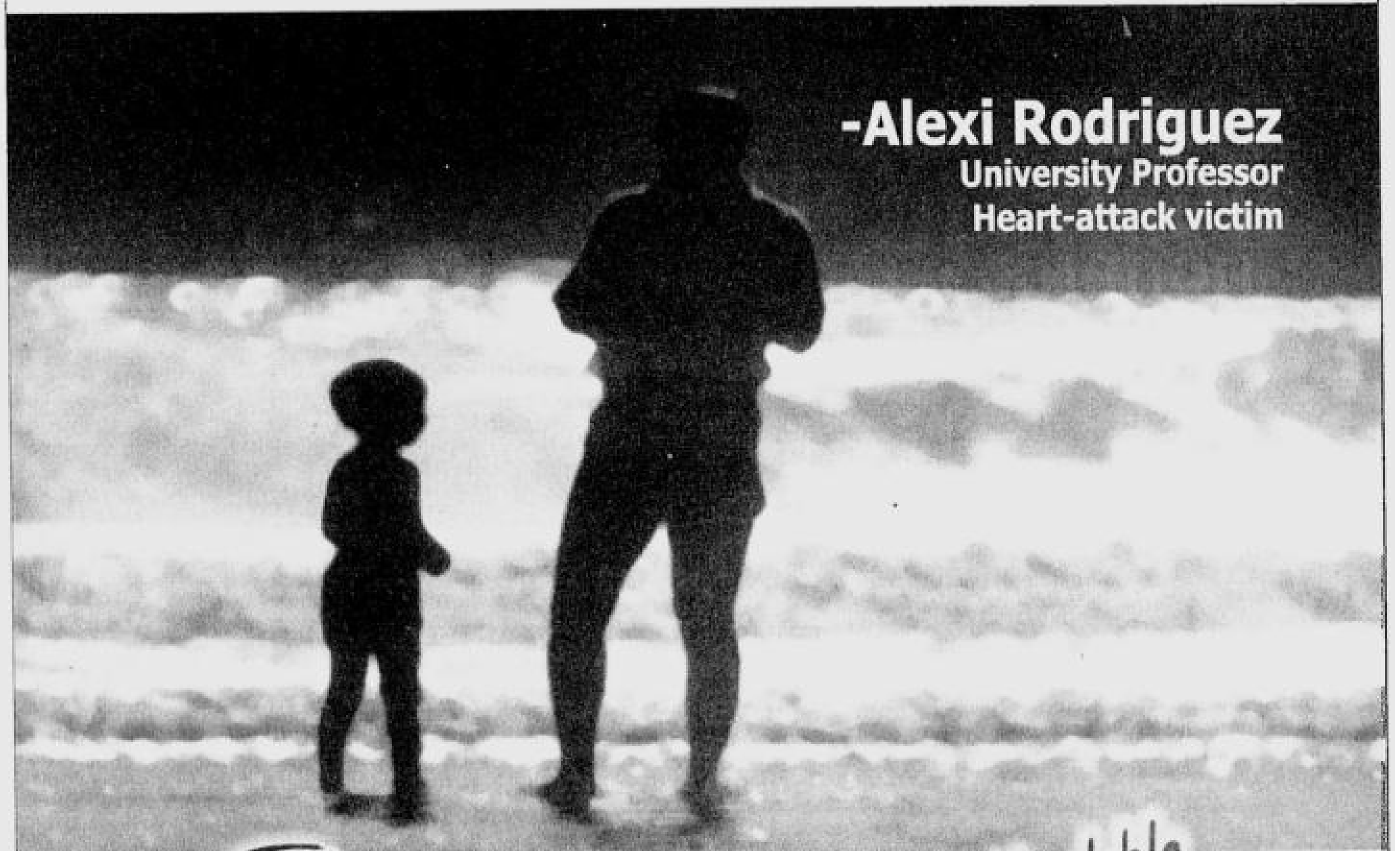
Dr. Ruben also discussed the history of the flu and how flu pandemics happen every 20-30 years. Since the last flu pandemic was in 1968, it is possible that another pandemic may occur in the near future.

He encouraged people "to get vaccinated now and not wait for the flu season."

Dr. Ruben is an epidemiologist and infectious diseases expert who was on the advisory committee of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the director of Scientific and Medical Affairs and Medical Policy of Aventis Pasteur.

Aventis Pasteur produces more than one billion doses of vaccines every year to immunize 400 million people around the world.

"After my heart attack,
I thought I'll never see
my grandson again.
With my anti-cholesterol statin*,
I'm looking forward
to his college graduation!"



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REFERENCES:
[1] Kjekshus et al. Reducing the risk of Coronary Events: Evidence from the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) Am J Cardiol 1995; 76:64C-68C.
[2] Heart Protection Study Collaborative Group MRC/BHF Heart Protection Study of cholesterol lowering with simvastatin in 20,536 high-risk individuals: a randomized placebo controlled trial. The Lancet 2002 July; 360 (9236): 7-22.

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Robotic surgery: Making repairs without lifting the hood

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

CHICAGO—Robotic machines are now assisting surgeons in open-heart surgeries without even opening the chest.

Dr. Michael Argenziano, director of robotic cardiac surgery at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, presented during the American Heart Association convention here his team's experience on 23 patients with atrial septal defects (ASD).

ASD is a condition wherein one is born with an opening in the atrial septum, which separates the left and the right atria—the heart's two upper chambers.

Using the Da Vinci system, which is now utilized in more than 170 centers in the United States and Europe, surgeons remotely maneuver robotic arms from a seat inside a console. In the conventional procedure, the surgeon opens the chest by making a foot-long incision through the skin and cutting the breastbone in half to expose the heart.

In this pioneering closed-chest, open-heart surgery, surgeons make four small holes (eight to 15 mm each) through which robotic arms are inserted. Two arms hold the instruments and perform the actual surgery, a third includes a camera-like device which transmits the 3-D image to the surgeon in the remote console, and the fourth simulates the assistant surgeon's arm which does the suctioning and handling of sutures.

This minimally invasive procedure has been approved recently for coronary bypass surgeries involving only one occluded (closed) artery.

Other surgeries

Argenziano's team is also using the Da Vinci system in mitral valve repair. The mitral valve serves as a door that separates the left atrium and the left ventricle. When it becomes defective, it can disturb the circulation in the heart and make the left atrium and ventricle enlarge, causing the heart to fail.

In other centers, the system has been used for radical or extensive prostate and stomach surgeries.

The 23 patients with ASD were part of a 30-case clinical investigation that was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

"We wanted to know if it was possible to operate inside the hearts of these patients without making any incisions," says Dr. Mehmet Oz, director of the Heart Institute at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

Not only were they able to show that the operation was feasible, they also demonstrated some advantages in robotic technology, which may revolutionize the way cardiac surgeries are performed.

Usually, patients who undergo ASD surgery stay in the hospital for a week and are not allowed to go back to work until after eight to 10 weeks. With robotic closed-chest surgery, the patients were discharged from the hospital in an average of just three days and were allowed to resume work in three to four weeks.

The quality of life of patients was much better than those who underwent traditional surgery. The need for pain medication was also much less.

"The primary advantages of this minimally invasive surgery are: faster patient recovery, less pain and dramatically less scarring than traditional open-heart surgery," says Argenziano.

More expensive

Although this type of surgery is more expensive than that of traditional surgery, the shorter hospital stay and earlier resumption of work balance the equation and may make it cheaper when all costs are factored in, says Argenziano.

"The equipment (and procedure) may be costly, but this is definitely part of the future," adds Argenziano, who was the lead author of the study.

"Patients are going to insist on it despite the expense because it's cosmetically superior and allows for much faster recovery. For certain procedures like ASD repair, it's already proving to be a worthy alternative to conventional surgery."

Although the number of patients undergoing robotic ASD repair is still relatively small, the occurrence of complications does not appear to be a problem so far.

In the 23 patients, there were only two reported complications which were easily managed.

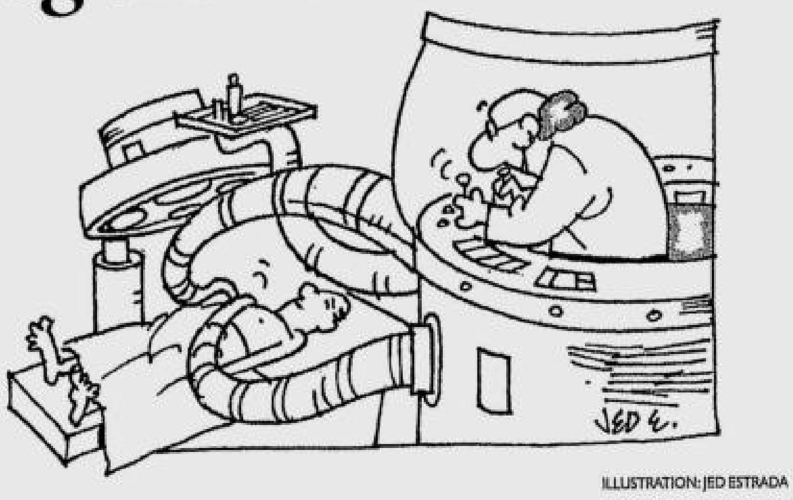

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

One had a leak in the ASD patch used to close the defect. This was easily corrected using the same technique. Another had a swelling in the leg caused by tubes connected to the heart-lung machine that was used during surgery. This was treated with antibiotics.

In the majority of cases, successful closure of the ASD was documented by laboratory imaging tests.

Takes longer

A minor downside of robotic heart surgery is that it takes a little longer than the traditional approach, but that may be attributed to the learning curve expected with most new techniques.

The heart was stopped and the circulation was taken cared of by a heart-lung machine for an average of 34 minutes, compared to 20 minutes in traditional surgery. Argenziano says that with a familiarization of the technique, the total duration of surgery has progressively decreased.

Four other centers in the United States have received training to perform the ASD robotic surgery. Aside from Argenziano and Oz, the other members of the team are Doctors Craig Smith, Takushi Kohmoto, Mauricio Garrido, Jaina Dimitui, James Beck, Linda Mongero and Hadar Hermoni.

On a lighter note, Oz says younger surgeons, who belong to the Nintendo generation and are quite adept at video games, may have an advantage over senior surgeons.

However, Argenziano, who looks like he's in his early 40s, says that even older surgeons should be able to learn the robotic technique easily, as long as they have an open mind to new technologies.

From a nonsurgical standpoint, the technique indeed looks easy enough. Doing closed-chest, open-heart robotic surgery now seems as simple as an appendectomy.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE BILL

Malady masquerading as cure

By Philip S. Chua, MD
Contributor

HOUSE BILL 4955
JED E.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

EVERY family in the Philippines will suffer if the House bill on medical malpractice becomes a law. The bill is a cancerous malady masquerading as a cure.

House Bill 4955, otherwise known as the Medical Malpractice Act of 2002, was introduced by Pampanga Rep. Oscar S. Rodriguez who obviously did not realize that its passage will make medical care more costly and cause suffering to all patients, especially the poor.

The passage of HB 4955 will lead to poorer quality medical care, force physicians to retire early or abandon the practice of medicine, and cause some hospitals to close down or downgrade their services.

On the surface, the bill aims to protect the rights of the patients, but its actual implication, realistic meaning and resultant effects will be detrimental to every Filipino.

One of the reasons the cost of health care in the United States has escalated to its current ridiculous and untenable level was a similar move that resulted in skyrocketing malpractice insurance premiums for physicians.

Physicians not God

The bill seeks to "criminalize" the malpractice of licensed physicians. If the physician makes any mistake (even an honest one and even if he is the most competent doctor around) in making a diagnosis or in his treatment, the error will be considered a criminal act. He can be imprisoned for six months to 12 years, his license to practice cancelled, and ordered to pay a fine of P500,000 to P1 million.

The expectation of perfection and infallibility should be accorded only to God. Physicians are human beings, not God, and are therefore imperfect.

Also, medicine is not an exact science, and there may be several ways to diagnose and manage any given disease or condition.

As long as the physician practices medicine within the peer-accepted standard of medical care in the community, he should be accorded just and fair treatment under our laws.

Copying US idea

The author and sponsors of HB 4955 have apparently "copied" the idea of medical malpractice from the United States where insurance companies and other businesses with vested interest had vigorously lobbied Congress these past decades. This resulted in a prohibitive malpractice environment and the current health care system that Americans are now vehemently opposing.

The bill that Americans initially thought would protect them and their rights and make health care more affordable has since then shown its true effects: very expensive medical care even for middle-class Americans, poorer quality health care, and less accessibility to medical care.

Existing laws

We already have adequate laws in the Philippines under the Revised Penal Code that protect patients against incompetent, negligent, erring and criminal physicians. All we have to do is enforce them.

In fact, there have been various significant awards by our courts indemnifying the victims of medical malpractice.

Our laws are effective, if enforced.

Enacting HB 4955 will be like using a shotgun to kill a fly on a patient's forehead. It will penalize patients and their families through more expensive medical care, more difficult access to physicians and less quality care.

I have lived in the United States since 1963 and have witnessed this dilemma plaguing Americans for years. I see a bleak future for the Philippine health care system if we repeat the mistakes the American people and their legislators made decades ago.

Failed experiment

Many hospitals in the United States are closing down and numerous medical services (like emergency room and obstetrical care), have been cut down, if not totally abandoned.

Many specialists have relocated, retired or have chosen to seek other jobs because malpractice premiums have escalated to an unaffordable level. Malpractice premium for an obstetrician, for example, could be as high as $200,000.

President Bush and the American Medical Association blame the cost of medical malpractice as the cause of the current health care crisis in the United States.

As expected, the Philippine Medical Association is gravely concerned and strongly opposes the passage of HB 4955 or any similar bill.

(The writer is a member of the Cebu Medical Society Task Force and chair of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Cebu Cardiovascular Center, Cebu Doctors' Hospital.)

Patient compliance: The 'missing link'

DESPITE all the medical breakthroughs yielding new drugs that are more effective and associated with less side-effects, effective control of cardiovascular diseases appears to be an elusive dream.

"No drugs can ever be effective unless they're taken religiously," says Dr. Gregorio Patacsil Jr., president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension. "It may be the 'missing link' why some medical problems are not adequately controlled," he adds.

Dr. Patacsil, who is also a past president of the Philippine Heart Association and Philippine College of Physicians, bewails the common belief many patients have that taking drugs continuously will lead to drug tolerance, making the patient no longer responsive or sensitive to the medication he is taking. "This is a myth resulting in the patient's poor compliance in medications he should be taking continuously," explains Dr. Patacsil.

Healthy lifestyle

Dr. Rebecca Lorenzo-Castillo, vice chair of the Department of Medicine of the Manila Adventist Medical Center, emphasizes that adherence to a healthy lifestyle is essential in addition to the prescribed drugs. "Lifestyle changes are the mainstay in the prevention and treatment of many common medical problems. From heart diseases to cancers, these lifestyle diseases can be significantly avoided; and if they're already present, the patient has a better chance of surviving them, hopefully licking them for good, with a healthy lifestyle change," says Dr. Castillo.

Dr. Castillo adds that when doctors prescribe drugs, they're not meant to be a substitute for a lifestyle change. The medicines are given on top of a healthy lifestyle prescription. The success of treatment depends on a religious adherence to both the lifestyle change and intake of medicine. Dr. Castillo cites an example: "It does not serve one well if one indulges in a high-cholesterol diet because anyway, 'I'm taking my cholesterol-lowering drugs religiously.' This is a travesty of a rational medical treatment."

No drug too can ever be a substitute for regular exercise. Being "too busy for exercise" is no longer an acceptable excuse for the health-conscious person in this millennium. Although it's not the ideal way to do it, it may be done in 10-minute installments three times daily.

For the doctor's prescription of a lifestyle change and medicines to be effective, the patient's compliance is essential and many agree that this is the "missing link" why many chronic diseases, which require life-long treatment, remain uncontrolled.

"A one-month exercise and diet program which is not sustained is futile," says Dr. Patacsil. He adds that poor compliance in taking antihypertensive drugs and cholesterol-lowering medications is a key factor why many still develop heart attacks and strokes although the patients take their medicines "once in a while" or "on and off."

Dr. Castillo says that a doctor's great frustration is not to be able to achieve the optimal effects of medicines due to poor patient compliance.

Strong evidence

The 20,000-patient Heart Protection Study (HPS) published in the Lancet shows strong evidence that simvastatin, taken religiously for several years, cut the risks of heart attacks and strokes in the high-risk population, particularly diabetics. The benefit extends to the elderly and to women, findings which have not been shown in previous clinical trials.

Simvastatin is probably the most scientifically documented statin in the market and, together with other statins, it is expected to revolutionize the way doctors aim to prevent heart attacks and strokes in high-risk patients. But the problem of high cost of statins resulting in unsustained patient compliance is again a big problem to hurdle.

The introduction of a new brand of simvastatin (Vidastat) by Therapharma at an affordable price is a big boost that is expected to enhance long-term compliance.

A skin disease called acne

By Carole Grace P. Beltran, MD
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

ACNE is not a cosmetic problem. It is a skin disease that crosses gender lines and is one of the most widespread medical conditions in the world.

More than 90 percent of adolescents have acne. Others may not develop it until they are in their 20s or 30s.

At the onset of puberty, the body produces hormones called androgens. These "male" hormones are a natural part of development for both boys and girls, but boys tend to produce more of them and therefore tend to have more severe breakouts.

The adrenal glands begin to produce dihydrotestosterone sulfate (DHEAS), an androgen. Other androgens at work in a woman's body, such as testosterone and dehydrotestosterone (DHT), join in at the onset of puberty.

All these hormones stimulate the sebaceous glands to secrete more of the skin's natural oil, or sebum.

The treatment of acne in teenagers can be challenging because their hormones are in a constant state of flux.

They may initially respond very well to first-line treatments, such as topical keratolytics (a medicine that peels the skin superficially), perhaps accompanied by an oral antibiotic. As their bodies develop, however, they may undergo several hormonal shifts and stop responding to the medications.

The course of treatment may have to be adjusted more often with teenagers.

Oil glands

Our faces and bodies are covered with tiny hairs, each one fitting snugly into a hair follicle. Deep within each follicle, oil glands are hard at work producing sebum, which travels up the hair and out onto the surface of your skin.

The job of the sebum is to form a protective layer between your skin and the world, keeping it soft and smooth.

When androgens enter the picture, your oil glands go into overdrive. They produce extra oil, which can clump together with dead skin cells on the top layer of your skin. This sticky mixture finds its way into your pores, trapping oil and bacteria inside.

Unfortunately, your oil glands do not know when to stop. They keep on producing oil, and the follicle becomes swollen. White blood cells, the body's natural defense system, rush to the area to clean up the mess. The result is a red, painful bump that leaves scars.

Caused by hormones

Acne that is caused by hormones is usually moderate and is limited to inflammatory papules (small bumps with pus), small inflammatory nodules (red, painful bumps) and occasional comedones (blackheads and whiteheads).

But many women pass into adulthood without outgrowing their acne.

During the course of a normal menstrual cycle, estrogen levels peak at midcycle, then decline as a woman nears her period. After ovulation, the ovaries produce progesterone, another hormone which stimulates the sebaceous glands. And with the extra oil comes acne.

Hormones are also responsible for acne in a number of pregnant women. The sebaceous glands go into high gear during the third trimester, causing oily skin and frequent breakouts.

Some women even experience acne after menopause when estrogen levels begin to taper off and testosterone becomes the dominant hormone.

Adult acne

While teenagers make up the largest percentage of the population afflicted with acne, they are not alone in their suffering.

Acne strikes adults, too. Nearly 50 percent of adult women and 25 percent of all adults have acne.

The figures are rising and this could mean one of two things: more adults are getting acne or more adults are seeking treatment for their acne.

Adult acne patients usually have lesions on the lower part of the face, especially on the chin and the jaw line. While some may have breakouts on the chest and back, most have blemishes only on the face.

Whether one's acne persists through adolescence into adulthood or strikes suddenly after 30, the condition can have lasting physical and psychological ramifications.

Acne in adults is more likely to leave permanent physical scars. As the skin ages and loses collagen, it becomes harder for it to bounce back after tissue damage.

(Dr. Beltran is a licensed dermatologist.)

What helps kids do well in school

SCHOOLCHILDREN are encouraged to practice proper hygiene to protect them from germ and bacterial infection.

Health and hygiene authorities, however, caution that washing hands with ordinary soap alone is not an assurance that a child is safe from germ and bacterial infection.

They recommend instilling in children the habit of washing their hands with tested and clinically proven superior skin germ protection soap.

A number of institutions both from the government and the private sector partner with schools not only to promote proper health and hygiene, but also to ensure that a schoolchild's performance is at par with his or her physical well-being.

One of these private institutions is Procter and Gamble Phils. (P&G), maker of Safeguard antibacterial soap. Because the issue of health and hygiene has a significant impact on P&G consumers, the company has chosen to focus on health and hygiene as part of its efforts to improve the quality of life of Filipinos, particularly children.

Through its partnership with public and private elementary schools nationwide, P&G is implementing a health and hygiene education program for schoolchildren focusing on three simple ways:

- Frequent washing of hands
- Taking a bath every day
- Keeping one's surroundings clean.

Very simple ways indeed, but with long-lasting effects on the schoolchild's health and performance.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

BAZAAR EXPORT BANK TOWER formerly URBAN BANK GrdFlr Aircon Nov. 27,28,29 & Dec. 11,12,13 Call 7137030•7137231 • 0917-4916315 • 09173518509

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AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #233 Buendia Shopping Plaza, Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St., Makati City; #15 Gen. Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan, Taguig. Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on November 30, 2002 at 9:00 AM. Including all items pawned up to June 2002
V. Zamora Jr.
Lic. Auctioneer

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP.
AUCTION SALE
• DEC. 02, 2002 •
All unredeemed articles up to July 1-31, 2002
in the following branches:
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM.
•Pinatubo St. Mand City 10AM
•Libertad St corner Sierra Madre Mand. 11AM.
•109 Dela Rosa St Mktl 1PM.
•108 Legaspi St Mktl 2PM.
V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given on execution of extrajudicial settlement of the estate of SALVADOR ABUEG as per Doc 94, Page 20, Book XXVIII, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Pio Kenneth Dasal.
(PDI-Nov. 16, 23 & 30, 2002)

PERSONAL

HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY!!!
Anvilou Relangeli
Maritheresa De Lara Torres
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Lt. Col. & Mrs. Reynaldo Torres

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
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Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **INA MICRO OPTO CORPORATION** (MOC) with plant site at the Mactan Economic Zone II - Special Economic Zone (MEZ II-SEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) an application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its production of high powered microscopes and component parts thereof, based on newness of product and technology, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA [Tel. Nos. 510-2947 and 551-34-57, and Telefax 551-3456].

(Sgd.) LILIA B. DE LIMA
Director General

(PDI--Nov. 23, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Tel#: 810-4901-10; Fax# 818-6807
Website: www.pdic.gov.ph; E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE- GOODS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and participate in the re-bidding for Janitorial Service and bidding for Security Service requirements for the period, January 2003 to December 2003.

PARTICULARS	JANITORIAL SERVICE	SECURITY SERVICE
1. Project Description/Location	Janitorial Service for PDIC Corporate Office & Warehouse involving 8,670 sq. m. located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City & Veterans Compound, Taguig respectively	Security Service for PDIC Corporate Office, Warehouse & Pasay property located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City Veterans Compound, Taguig & 2370 Taft Avenue, Bgy. Sta. Clara, Pasay City respectively
2. Approved Budget	P3,603,240.00	P4,116,720.00
3. Required Personnel	28 janitors	23 security guards
4. Prebid Conference	December 2, 2002 10:00 AM 6th Floor PDIC Bldg.	December 2, 2002 2:00 PM 6th Floor PDIC Bldg.
5. Minimum Experience Requirement	at least 5 years for janitorial and at least 10 years in the business for security services; with previous/current dealings with government organization/agency and/or commercial bank; and employing at least 50 janitors/200 security guards.	

Prospective bidders shall be allowed to bid for only one (1) type of service.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are contained in the Terms of Reference (TOR) available for issuance to interested bidders starting **November 18 to 29, 2002**, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC-Secretariat, Ground Floor, PDIC Bldg., 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City from Ms. Baby Quitevis or Ms. Malou Francisco after payment of a non-refundable amount of P200.00 for each service to be bid.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and postqualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail criteria. Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) **CATHERINE F. BAMBA**
Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 16 & 23, 2002)

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Davao City	Dec. 16 & 17	Marco Polo Davao

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Call: (02) 455-3856; 455-4358

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CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Aparri, Cagayan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. The Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply of the following materials:
Distribution Transformers Complete with Accessories, Hardwood/Concrete Poles, Conductors, Distribution Line materials

B. Application for the pre-qualification must be submitted to the PBAC Chairman, Mrs. Blandina Y. Madamba at the address given above or may be faxed to telefax number (078) 8226900 together with the following requirements:
a) BIR-VAT Certificate
b) Business Permit
c) Business Registration
d) Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
e) Company Profile
f) List of Clients for a period of 3 years (if applicable)

C. Deadline for submission — November 29, 2002.

D. CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any required formality therein, accept proposals most advantageous to the Cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

E. Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders either through fax or mails.

F. Additional information may be furnished upon request

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

Note: *For the extension of lateral lines for the following barangays.*
1. Binubungan, Allacapan, Cagayan
2. Alig. Flora, Apayao
3. Sta. Maria, Flora

Source of fund : 2001 National Electrification Administration (NEA) subsidy

(PDI – Nov. 16 & 23, 2002)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.

G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Q.C., Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 928-2303, 435-3366, 920-5521

INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all qualified suppliers/bidders to participate in the following Bids to be conducted by MWSI Purchasing Department:

Type of Bidding		Particulars	
1.	E-BID	370 Cylinders	**LIQUID CHLORINE (AWWA B-301-92)** 68 kilograms/cylinder Staggered Delivery (3-years) Delivery Place - Noveleta Pumping Station Noveleta, Cavite **Pre-Bid Conference - December 02, 2002** **Bidding Date - December 18, 2002**
Bid Documents for the above bidding shall be issued for a **non-refundable participating fee** of P1,000.00 starting November 25, 2002.			
2.	E-BID	200 pieces 60 pieces 40 pieces	Class B Vertical Turbine Water Meter Class B Vertical Turbine Water Meter Class B Vertical Turbine Water Meter As per MWSI Technical Specifications **Pre-Bid Conference - November 29, 2002** **Bidding Date - December 17, 2002**
Bid Documents for the above bidding shall be issued for a **non-refundable participating fee** of P1,000.00 starting November 25, 2002.			
3.	E-BID		Comprehensive Insurance of 328 units MWSI Vehicles **Pre-Bid Conference - November 26, 2002** **Bidding Date - December 04, 2002**
Bid Documents for the above bidding shall be issued for a **non-refundable participating fee** of P1,000.00, starting November 25, 2002.			
4.	SEALED BID		Supply and Delivery of Standard Office Furniture (Tables, Chairs & Cabinets) for MWSI Offices **Pre-Bid Conference - December 05, 2002** **Bidding Date - December 12, 2002**
Bid Documents for the above bidding shall be issued for a **non-refundable participating fee** of P500.00, starting November 25, 2002.			

Documents for the above scheduled biddings can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSS Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
SAVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI - Nov. 23, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
CEBU CITY

INVITATION TO BID FOR COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS FOR HDMF CEBU AND ILOILO REGIONAL OFFICE

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) is inviting suppliers within Metro Cebu to Pre-qualify and to Bid for Computer units and Printers for HDMF Cebu Regional Office and ILOILO Regional Office at the Cebu Business Park, Cebu City.

Included in this project are the following:

1. 46 units – COMPUTER SET
2. 31 units – Printer, (Dot matrix, 80 cols. 24 pins, 220 cps)
3. 9 units – Printer, (Laser with Toner Server Mode)
4. 2 units – Printer, (Dot Matrix, 132 cols. 24 pins, 480 cps)
5. 55 units – COMPUTER SET (For HDMF-ILOILO)

Interested Suppliers should signify their interest through a Letter of Intent to the following address and they will be issued the Pre-qualification and Bid Forms upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (1,500.00).

THE CHAIRMAN
Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee, 3rd Flr. Admin. Div.
Home Development Mutual Fund
Pag-IBIG Fund/WT Tower, Mindanao Ave. Cebu Business park
Cebu City

Pre-qualification and Bid Proposals should be submitted in one (1) original and four (4) copies.

The bidding activities should be as follows:

Submission of Letter of Intent	Dec. 10, 2002	HDMF, Cebu
Non-HDMF suppliers should submit their Pre-qualification paper to Admin Division	Dec. 12, 2002	HDMF, Cebu
Issuance of Bid Documents	Dec. 13, 2002	HDMF, Cebu
Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 16, 2002	HDMF, Cebu
Bid/Opening of Bids	Dec. 18, 2002	HDMF, Cebu

Only those firms with business offices in Metro Cebu will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

The HDMF reserves the right to reject all or any documents found out not complying with the requirements.

Approved Budget:	Cebu Regional Office	P3,638,000.00
	ILOILO Regional Office	P3,850,000.00

(Sgd.) VICTORIA B. DE LA PEÑA
Chairman

(PDI – Nov. 23 & Dec. 7, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS) invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF IT EQUIPMENT** for the Department of Education Computerization Program.

The approved budget for this contract is P 82, 500,000.00.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on December 5, 2002, 9:30 a.m. at the PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.

The bid documents shall be available at the PS-PURCHASING DIVISION starting November 26, 2002 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Nine Thousand Pesos (Php 9,000.00).

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **December 19, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.**

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos 563-9402 or 563-9374.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI-Nov. 23 & 30, 2002)

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas invites prospective Consultants to submit proposals to render professional consultancy/services to its Treasury Department in the search, evaluation, selection and implementation of an integrated Treasury Management System (TMS) for the BSP.

For eligibility purposes, prospective Consultants should comply with the following:

1. Must either be Filipino or foreigner provided they are registered with the appropriate Philippine government regulating body to engage in a consulting services. If foreigner, the Consultant should associate himself with a Filipino consultant.
2. Must have extensive knowledge of treasury management concepts, principles and analytical techniques and demonstrated experience in overall treasury operations and up-to-date information technology supporting them (preferably with central banks).
3. Must have in-depth understanding of and demonstrated capabilities pertaining to, the identification, evaluation, selection, and integration of the treasury software technology to the existing Treasury Department operations.

Other requirements:
- a. Must provide a summary of their company's background and qualifications.
- b. Must show proof of expertise in providing consultancy services (preferably in treasury management of central banks) such as the number of years in business as well as certificates of achievements.
- c. Must submit names of bank clients for consultancy services in treasury management and the quality of their performance in these projects.
- d. Must submit details of their approach and methodology.
- e. Must describe their proposed project team to include the actual number of staff to be deployed, the time each member is to be utilized and the responsibilities, tasks and functions of the team members.
- f. Must submit the curriculum vitae of each project team member which includes the following information:
  - Primary and secondary area of expertise
  - Educational attainment
  - IT-related training
  - System projects handled and type of involvement
- g. Must ensure that sufficient number of qualified personnel will be assigned fulltime in the project until its full implementation.

Proofs of compliance with the above requirements, together with photocopies of the documents listed below (original copies of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes) shall be submitted to the Disbursement Control Committee thru the Administrative Services Department, Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Bldg., corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Manila not later than December 10, 2002.

1. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership and Business Registration papers;
2. 2000 and 2001 Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) and Latest Income Tax Returns;
3. Company History/Profile of the Consultant;
4. List of ongoing/completed consultancy projects complete with their addresses, telephone and fax numbers;
5. Certification as to the number of consultancy services; and
6. Other documents which would establish the capability of the prospective consultants to undertake the consultancy project.

Only those who comply with/submit the above requirements and are pre-qualified by the Bank will be invited to attend the pre-bid conference and participate in the bidding which will be conducted later to be advised to pre-qualified consultants.

The two (2) envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS
Director
Administrative Services Department

(PDI–Nov. 23, 2002)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

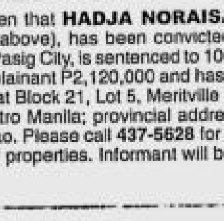
DISPOSAL SALE

Sealed Bid Sale of used office and residential furniture/equipment, appliances, five (5) units 1992 and two (2) units 1994 Mitsubishi Pajero, 2 door, 4x4, manual transmission and one (1) unit 1989 Mitsubishi L-300 Van, manual transmission are offered for bidding on an **"AS IS - WHERE IS"** basis.

All items except for the two (2) units of 1994 Mitsubishi Pajero (located at Cebu and Ilo-Ilo) can be inspected on **November 25-27, 2002** from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at USVA/Out-Patient Clinic, 2201 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on **November 29, 2002** at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USVA/Out-Patient Clinic Cashier.

For further information, please call Mr. Manuel Fidel Holandez and Ms. Emy Santos at Tel. Nos. 833-4566 to 69 local 8205 / 8206.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Notice is hereby given that **HADJA NORAISA GAMOR ABANGON** (whose pictures appear above), has been convicted of estafa, criminal case No. 118482 RTC Br. 70, Pasig City, is sentenced to 10 to 17 years imprisonment, is ordered to pay to complainant P2,120,000 and has an outstanding warrant of arrest. She is said to be at Block 21, Lot 5, Meritville Townhomes, Pulang Lupa Uno, Las Piñas City, Metro Manila; provincial address: Inged, Tugaya, Lanao del Sur, ARMM, Mindanao. Please call **437-5628** for any information leading to her arrest and seizure of properties. Informant will be rewarded.

(PDI - Nov. 23, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cebu

Q. Where did the name 'Cebu' come from?

A. 'Cebu' is the Hispanized form of the original name 'Sugbo.' Most etymologists say the root word derives from the verb *sugbo*, which means 'to walk in the water.' In early times, the shores of the Cebu port were shallow, so travelers coming from the sea had to wade in the water to reach dry land.

For the Record. Life on Earth began in the oceans nearly 3.5 billion years ago. The first living creatures – a variety of simple animal and plant forms – were able to survive in the ocean for several reasons. Unlike the atmosphere on land, ocean water provided a stable temperature, and the minerals that early life forms needed were present in the water. The ocean also protected living things from dangerous rays of the Sun. That wasn't true on land because at that time the protective ozone layer in the atmosphere hadn't formed yet. It wasn't until about 400 million years that living things, including the very distant ancestors of humans, finally ventured ashore.

Ooops! Contrary to popular notion, iron is not the most abundant metal on Earth although it may seem to be because of its wide use throughout history. The most abundant is aluminum, comprising about 80% of the Earth's crust.

WORD WATCH

Yero : from the Spanish *hierro*, 'iron.'

PDI - Nov 23 2002

Q FUNERARIA QUIOGUE
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Maria Victoria Rosal de la Cruz

on 22 November, 2002

Our Beloved

Vicky

passed on to be in God's eternal bosom, there to live in peace and perfection.

Her loving husband **Dr. Wilfredo E. de la Cruz**; her children **Carmel Patricia, Rissa Monique** and **Mariel Angela**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12-G Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 28, at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, after the 9 a.m. Holy Mass.

GERTRUDO A. EUSEBIO

"DING"

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 20, 2002 at the age of 83.

His wife **Dunding Eusebio**; children and in-laws **Gie; Baby Doris & Romie** (†), **Volette, Marivic & Rey, Dennis & Doris, Norman & Raquel, Cherry & Peter**; grandchildren **Karen, Aji & Kyle, Anna, Angelica, Raymond, Cathy & Joshua, Iccoi, Diego & Andi, Bojoc, Yabee & Mikey, Justin, Jeremy & Jayden**; brothers and sisters **Rosing** (†) & **Honesto** (†), **Tinding** (†), **Iking** (†) & **Inday** (†), **Tentay, Pening** (†) & **Pepito** (†), **Chito & Medy, Cely & Pacing, Ed** (†) & **Beth**.

His body lies in state at Holy Eucharist Chapel, Moonwalk Phase I, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, November 26, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

"I am the resurrection and life.
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;
and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

FELICITAS MENDOZA VILLAREAL

Her bereaved son **Dodoy & Bang, Lina & Mitch, Edna & Romy**; grandchildren **Eddie boy** (†), **Gladys, Earl, Bing, James** (†), **Grace, Joel, Elmer, Rommel, Ryan**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Premier Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A Santos Avenue, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment to be announced later.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
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ATTY. PEDRO CORDERO CABIGAO

23 March 1921 - 18 November 2002

His wife **Crescencia Consunji Cabigao**; children **Eduardo & Olive, Marilou & Rey, Mike & Pinky, Ann & Orly, Joseph & Jocelyn, Menchu & Cris** and his grandchildren request prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose Parish Hall in Greenhills East, Mandaluyong.

Interment will be on Sunday, 24 November 2002 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any Identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
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Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
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Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
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Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
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Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Procurement Service through the Department of Education (DepEd) is inviting Manufacturers/Suppliers to bid for the **Supply and Delivery of School Desk and Armchair** in the following regions:

Regional Distribution	Elementary (Table & Chairs)		Budget Allocation	Secondary (Armchair)		Budget Allocation
Region I	Lot 1	12,673 Sets	12,673.20	Lot 2	8,585 Pcs.	4,292.26
Region II	Lot 3	10,746 Sets	10,745.68	Lot 4	7,512 Pcs.	3,755.91
Region III	Lot 5	26,846 Sets	26,846.39	Lot 6	16,402 Pcs.	8,201.12
Region IV	Lot 7	46,805 Sets	46,805.49	Lot 8	28,597 Pcs.	14,298.28
Region V	Lot 9	19,662 Sets	10,661.62	Lot 10	9,954 Pcs.	4,977.00
Region VI	Lot 11	20,855 Sets	20,854.86	Lot 12	13,903 Pcs.	6,951.62
Region VII	Lot 13	25,199 Sets	25,198.98	Lot 14	15,915 Pcs.	7,957.57
Region VIII	Lot 15	15,949 Sets	15,948.92	Lot 16	9,636 Pcs.	4,817.90
Region IX	Lot 17	14,923 Sets	14,923.14	Lot 18	7,886 Pcs.	3,943.03
Region X	Lot 19	11,319 Sets	11,319.11	Lot 20	5,379 Pcs.	2,689.69
Region XI	Lot 21	23,669 Sets	23,669.44	Lot 22	12,357 Pcs.	6,178.53
Region XII	Lot 23	12,817 Sets	12,817.00	Lot 24	7,874 Pcs.	3,937.25
CARAGA	Lot 25	10,829 Sets	10,828.82	Lot 26	6,360 Pcs.	3,180.00
NCR	Lot 27	27,268 Sets	27,268.00	Lot 28	26,983 Pcs.	13,491.34
CAR	Lot 29	5,190 Sets	5,190.16	Lot 30	3,136 Pcs.	1,567.86

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of letter of intent and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) starting **November 29 to December 2, 2002** at the **Procurement Service-PURCHASING DIVISION** or visit the PS Website *http://www.procurementservice.org.*

A pre-bid conference will be held on **December 3, 2002, 2:00 PM** at **Bulwagan ng Karunungan Rizal Building I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City**. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **December 17, 2002, 10:00 AM** at the same place mentioned above.

Procurement Service reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--Nov.23 & 30, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Procurement Service
Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Procurement Service through the Department of Education (DepEd) is inviting Cooperatives formed by persons with disability and other type of cooperatives who are engaged in the Manufacturing of school furniture to bid for the **Supply and Delivery of School Desk and Armchair** in the following regions:

Regional Distribution	Elementary (Table & Chairs)		Budget Allocation	Secondary (Armchair)		Budget Allocation
Reg. I Ilocos Region	Lot 1	4,224 Sets	4,224,400.00	Lot 2	1,431Pcs.	1,430,800.00
Reg. II Cagayan Valley	Lot 3	3,582 Sets	3,581,900.00	Lot 4	1,252 Pcs	1,252,000.00
Reg. III Central Luzon	Lot 5	8,949 Sets	8,948,800.00	Lot 5	2,734 Pcs.	2,733,700.00
Reg. IV Southern Tagalog	Lot 7	15,602 Sets	15,601,800.00	Lot 8	4,766 Pcs.	4,766,100.00
Reg. V Bicol Region	Lot 9	6,554 Sets	6,553,900.00	Lot 10	1,659 Pcs.	1,659,000.00
Reg. VI Western Visayas	Lot 11	6,952 Sets	6,951,600.00	Lot 12	3,317 Pcs.	2,317,200.00
Reg. VII Central Visayas	Lot 13	8,400 Sets	8,399,700.00	Lot 14	2,653 Pcs.	2,652,500.00
Reg. VIII Eastern Visayas	Lot 15	5,316 Sets	5,316,300.00	Lot 16	1,606 Pcs.	1,606,000.00
Reg. IX Western Mindanao	Lot 17	4,974 Sets	4,974,400.00	Lot 18	1,314 Pcs.	1,314,300.00
Reg. X Northern Mindanao	Lot 19	3,773 Sets	3,773,000.00	Lot 20	897 Pcs.	896,600.00
Reg. XI Southern Mindanao	Lot 21	7,890 Sets	7,889,800.00	Lot 22	2,060 Pcs.	2,059,500.00
Reg. XII Central Mindanao	Lot 23	4,272 Sets	4,272,300.00	Lot 24	1,312 Pcs.	1,312,400.00
CARAGA	Lot 25	3,610 Sets	3,609,600.00	Lot 26	1,060 Pcs.	1,060,000.00
NCR	Lot 27	9,089 Sets	9,089,300.00	Lot 28	4,497 Pcs.	4,497,100.00
CAR	Lot 29	1,730 Sets	1,730,100.00	Lot 30	523 Pcs.	522,600.00

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of letter of intent and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) starting **November 29 to December 2, 2002** at the **Procurement Service-PURCHASING DIVISION, Cristobal Street, Paco, Manila** or visit the PS website *http://www.procurementservice.org.*

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(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – Nov. 23 & 30, 2002)

G-20 finance chiefs begin deliberations

NEW DELHI— Top finance officials from the Group of 20 countries Friday began discussions on development, aid, the global slowdown and ways to choke off funding to terrorist groups, a senior Indian finance ministry official said.

The meeting in New Delhi will set the stage for a meeting Saturday of finance ministers and central bank governors from 19 developed and developing nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The group—representing more than 85 percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) and over 60 percent of its population —was set up in 1999 for industrialized countries and emerging markets to discuss policy in the hope of providing international financial stability.

India was expected to focus on showcasing the progress of its economic reforms launched more than a decade ago, an official said.

Briefing reporters in New Delhi Thursday, Finance Secretary S. Narayan said the G-20 was "a truly representative group of the whole world."

It groups Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

This year's deliberations take place against a backdrop of a sluggish global economy, with different countries beset by varying economic situations and problems, Narayan said. *AFP*

US leading economic indicators flat, claims fall

NEW YORK—A yardstick of US economic activity was unchanged in October, halting a decline that began in June and suggesting the nation's poor financial health may be stabilizing.

Separately, the labor department said Thursday that weekly jobless claims fell to their lowest level in four months.

The news helped the Dow Jones industrials rise more than 220 points to close at their highest level in three months.

The Dow closed Thursday at 8,845.15 after seeing its biggest one-day gain since Oct. 11. The Nasdaq had an even bigger percentage gain, rising 3.4 percent to 1,467.55.

The nation's gradually improving employment outlook helped offset weaker consumer attitudes last month, leaving the Conference Board's Index of Leading Economic Indicators flat at 111.4. It fell a revised 0.4 percent in September.

The index measures where the overall US economy is headed in the next three to six months. It stood at 100 in 1996, its base year.

Since analysts had expected the index to decline 0.1 percent last month, Thursday's report was considered relatively good news.

"It does look like the economy's weakness is starting to ebb a bit," said Douglas Parker, senior economist at BMO Nesbitt Burns Securities in Chicago.

But, he added, "there are still a lot of mixed messages out there."

For example, the housing market remains strong, despite a sharp decline last month, thanks in large part to low interest rates that have also spurred homeowners to refinance loans and free up cash to spend. *AP*

Japan firms post rosy H1 results, bumpy road ahead

TOKYO—A soft yen and cost cuts helped Japan's big companies put in a better performance than expected in the first half, but analysts said the shaky global economy could easily push profits below forecasts for the full year.

According to data compiled by Shinko Research Institute, 814 companies reported an average 39.1-percent rise in half-year group recurring profit, which is pre-tax and excludes extraordinary items.

The poll represented 77 percent of companies listed on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange that had reported earnings for the April-September period by Thursday.

"Results for the auto industry were better than expected, and overall, cost-cutting and to some extent the weaker yen led to rosier profit growth than had been expected," said Mitsuhiro Nakano, strategist at Daiwa Securities.

Japan's top automakers, most notably Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co., reported record profits for April-September, thanks to a stellar showing overseas, and forecast even better results for the second half.

But analysts said most other sectors could be less fortunate, with risk factors including an economic downturn in the United States, Japan's biggest trading partner.

The wild card could again be the electronics sector, which unexpectedly recorded a recurring loss last year due to a relentless fall in chip prices and huge restructuring charges.

The 814 companies themselves expect second-half recurring profits to jump 111 percent from a year ago—an especially weak period hurt by the Sept. 11 hijack attacks. That puts the expected profit rise for the full year at 66.2 percent. *Reuters*

Wall St. ignores sour news

NEW YORK—A month ago, investors felt a cold chill any time bad tidings were tossed into the stock market. Now, though, the Street seems to be filling up on all scraps of good news thrown its way, as the bears head into hibernation.

On Thursday, General Electric Co. cut its earnings outlook and announced a $1.4-billion charge at its money-losing reinsurance unit, but GE shares rose 7.6 percent and failed to rock a stock market that can still be skittish.

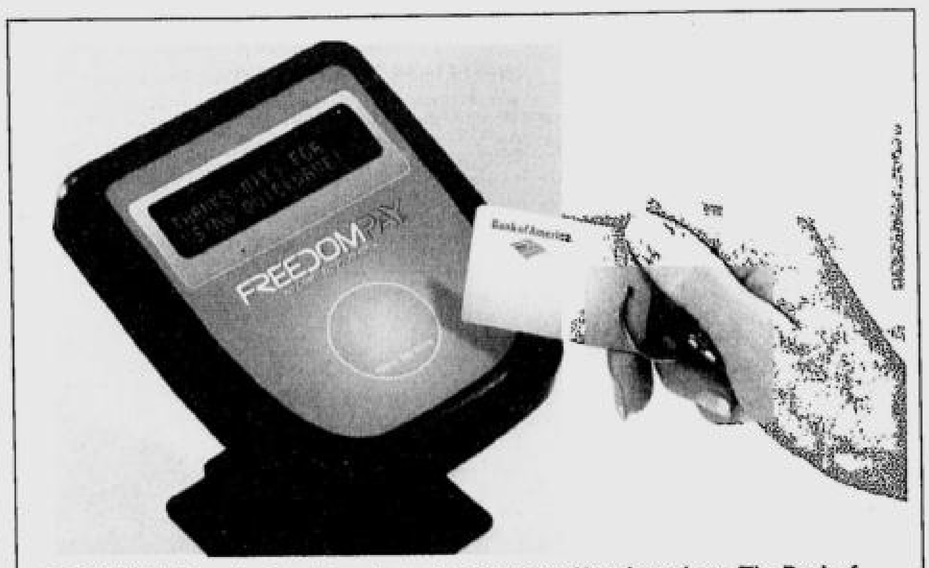
Instead, the Dow was up 2.4 percent at 8,830 in late-day trading, while the broader S&P 500 was up 2 percent at 932 and the Nasdaq Composite Index was up 3.2 percent at 1,465.

"The psychology of the market has changed," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Bank. "In particular, investors are willing to shrug off what could be perceived as bad news." On Tuesday, shares of home improvement retailer Home Depot Inc. slid 13 percent after it announced a weak outlook, which helped push the Dow and S&P slightly lower.

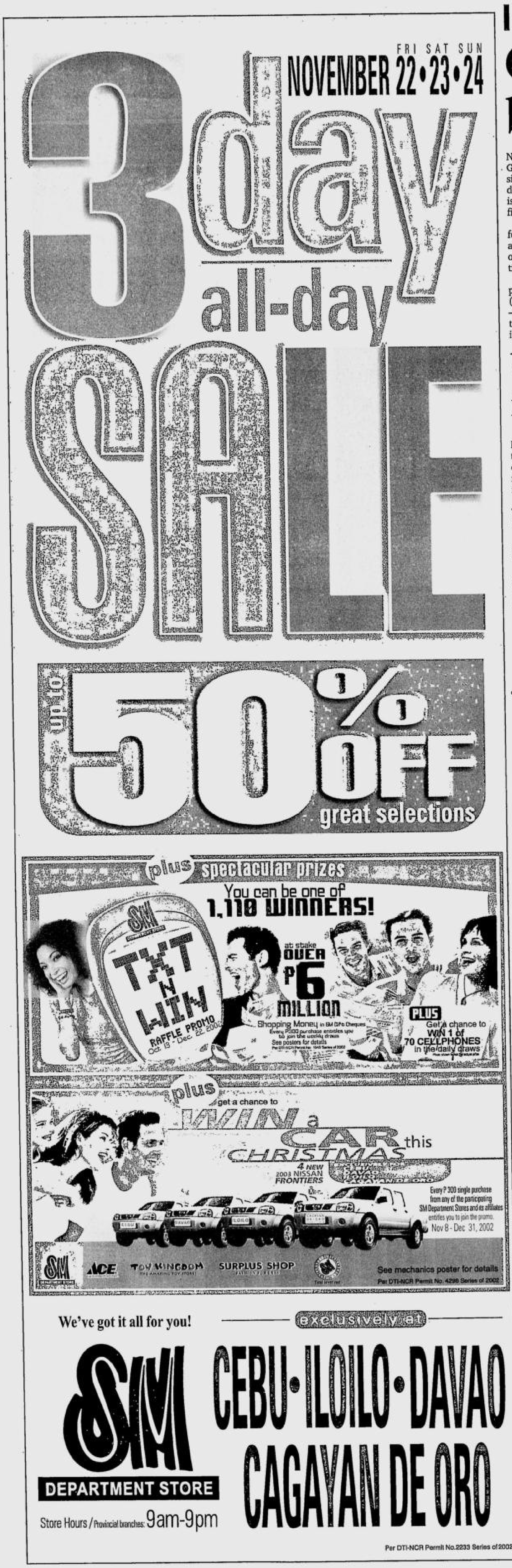
Unless something dreadful is reported late Thursday or early Friday, the Dow is poised to post its seventh weekly hike in a row. The Dow has climbed 20 percent since it hit a 5-year low on Oct. 9.

"We have seen some negative market interventions, such as news from Home Depot and the GE announcement," said Ned Riley, chief investment strategist at State Street Global Advisors.

"But the good news is that the market is able to power through and absorb it, whereas six or nine months ago, the market would have shuddered at that type of news." *Reuters*



A QUICKWAVE pad and card are shown in this undated handout photo. The Bank of America has launched a pilot program that could turn out to be another step in the evolution of a cashless economy or a total bust. Bank-installed equipment allows diners or customers to pay for their sandwich or greeting card by waving a small card on their keychain over a blue sensor pad. AP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SATURDAY Special
Editor Nestor U. Torre ◉ Associate Editor Edmund L

Moore finds 'Heaven' in '50s housewife roles

MOORE. Rethinks herself completely from role to role.

By David Germain

TORONTO—Julianne Moore is used to transforming from dinosaur hunter to porn queen to suicidal trophy wife with barely an outward alteration, including her long, lush red hair. For her latest role in the 1950s-era melodrama "Far From Heaven," Moore felt she needed an outer metamorphosis.

Redhead

Writer-director Todd Haynes, with whom she had previously worked on 1995's "Safe," had written "Far From Heaven" with Moore in mind, making lead character Cathy a redhead and saturating the screenplay with descriptions of autumnal russet colors to complement her hair.

Then Moore, who said she had never changed hair color before for a role, called Haynes and suggested that perfect-homemaker Cathy needed a makeover as a blonde.

"I wanted her to be the straight-up, traditional, ideal American woman," Moore said in an interview. "I wanted her to be that archetype, and that archetype does not have red hair.

"Red hair is marginal. Red hair has always been for the best friend character, so I needed her to be a blonde in a blue dress with a blue car. Just a lot of sparkle."

Adaptation

"Far From Heaven" is the first of two films this year casting Moore as a '50s housewife. Next up is "The Hours," the adaptation of Michael Cunningham's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about three women in different time frames: author Virginia Woolf (Nicole Kidman) writing "Mrs. Dalloway" in the 1920s, a wife and mom (Moore) reading Woolf's novel 30 years later, and a contemporary book editor (Meryl Streep).

Moore is a redhead again for "The Hours." The fact that she wanted to put on a blond wig for "Far From Heaven" surprised and delighted Haynes.

"That she wanted to transform that extra step for this film, I was like, cool. She's really going to surrender to this one. She always

MOORE/ C2

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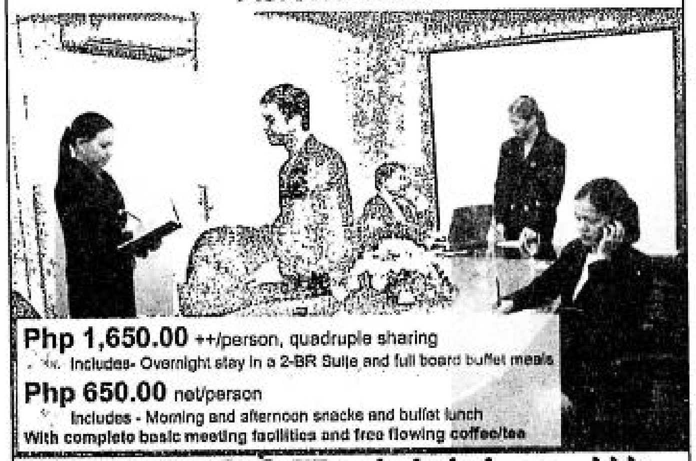

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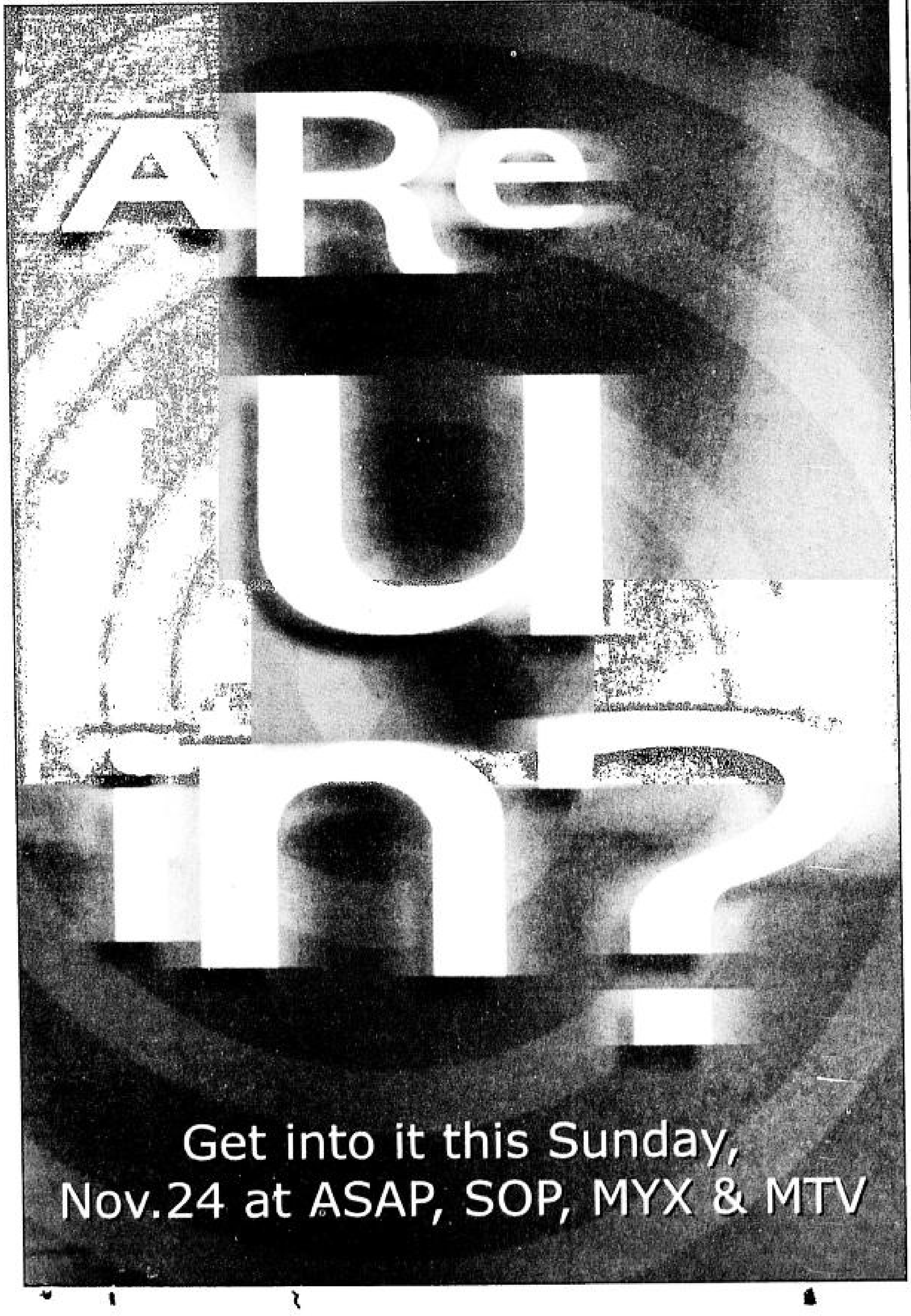
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Bing Pimentel writes songs in the key of life

By Nestor U. Torre

SEN. AND MRS. PIMENTEL. Her songs chronicle highlights of their life together.

DULCE, AGUILAR AND MARQUEZ. Have interpreted Bing's songs in different musical shows mounted through the years.

MOST people know Mrs. Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel as the loving wife of Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel, Jr. But Bing in fact has her own identity as a composer of songs that have been featured in several shows and albums.

On Dec. 11, some of the songs Bing has composed over the years will be featured in a symphonic concert at Teatro Aguinaldo in Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

Best pieces

The songs are taken from Bing's musical-theater productions, for which she composed her best pieces. The first, "Buhay, Isang Awit," traced the life of her and Nene's family, from their wedding to the '90s, when most of their children were grown up, and they themselves had become grandparents.

The second concert, "The Philippine-Nigerian Show," was a collaborative effort with then Nigerian Ambassador to the Philippines Gimeta, a gifted composer in her own right.

Three years ago, Bing put up "Huwag Pumayag sa Dagdag-Bawas," an instructive and entertaining revue on electoral fraud, one of Sen. Pimentel's major concerns in the last elections.

The latest, "Nasaan si Hesus?," is a musical revue on Christians' contemporary problems. The show has been brought all over the country by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Two albums

Bing has also come up with two albums of her songs, "Buhay, Isang Awit" and "Nasaan si Hesus."

Her songs will be performed on Dec. 11 by gifted singers and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Prof. Alfredo Buenaventura, Chinggoy Alonso directing.

Bing's songs will be interpreted by Dulce, Freddie Aguilar, Isay Alvarez, Pinky Marquez, Gamaliel Viray, Sheila Asuncion, Gelyn Oñate and the UP Vocal Ensemble.

Dulce has been a favorite interpreter of Bing's songs. In "Buhay, Isang Awit," she played and sang the role of Bing through the decades of her marriage to Nene.

Bimbo is another old hand at Bing's compositions. He was tapped to play Nene Pimentel in "Buhay, Isang Awit."

Fine singers

Isay Alvarez is a seasoned musical-theater performer who originated the role of Gigi in the first staging of the hit musical, "Miss Saigon," in London. She is married to the popular tenor Robert Seña, and their children are also turning out to be fine singers.

Pinky Marquez is a similarly experienced and acclaimed musical-theater talent, starting from the hit original Filipino musical "Katy!" in 1986. Her 15-year-old daughter Karel is also making a name for herself as a young singer and actress.

Gamaliel Viray is a well-known and much-lauded operatic singer who has also acted in stage plays and musicals.

Performance tour

Sheila Asuncion is a young actress-singer whose talent has bloomed in Bing's musical shows. She is currently playing important roles in "Nasaan si Hesus?," which is still being performed, and will be taken next January on a performance tour of the Bicol region. Gelyn Oñate has also appeared in "Nasaan si Hesus?"

A highlight of the concert is Freddie Aguilar's rendition of Bing's patriotic anthem, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," which he performs with uncommon fervor

BING/ C3

Moore finds 'Heaven' . . .

From page C1

does that, but I think it's usually in an internal way," Haynes said.

"Julianne's an amazingly attractive, charismatic, lovely, fun, goofy person to hang out with, but what amazes me is how little she relies on her natural charms as a vehicle in her acting. That separates her from most actors today, where their charm and charisma and irresistible personality are staples of who they are. Julianne, who has all that, is a consummate actor who rethinks fherself completely from role to role."

Military judge

Her father, a military judge, and mother, a social worker, wanted Moore to become a doctor or lawyer but supported her decision to study acting in college. Moore, 41, was a late bloomer as an actress, starting in soap operas and toiling in unremarkable movie and TV roles into her early 30s, when she began landing better parts in commercial hits and smaller prestige films.

Robert Altman cast Moore in "Short Cuts" and "Cookie's Fortune," and Steven Spielberg made her a dinosaur expert in "The Lost World: Jurassic Park." Moore earned praise for the Chekhov adaptation "Vanya on 42nd Street" and in the Coen brothers' "The Big Lebowski."

"Boogie Nights," writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson's 1997 drama, brought Moore her first Academy Award nomination, as a porn star who plays mother hen to cast and crew mates. Two years later, Moore reunited with Anderson as a wife who attempts suicide in "Magnolia" and earned an Oscar nomination for Neil Jordan's "The End of the Affair."

Other credits include "An Ideal Husband," "The Shipping News" and "Hannibal," in which Moore took on "The Silence of the Lambs" role originated by Jodie Foster.

Moore had supporting roles in "The Myth of Fingerprints" and this year's "World Traveler," written and directed by Bart Freundlich, with whom she lives in New York City and has a 4-year-old son and a daughter born last April.

Solid praise

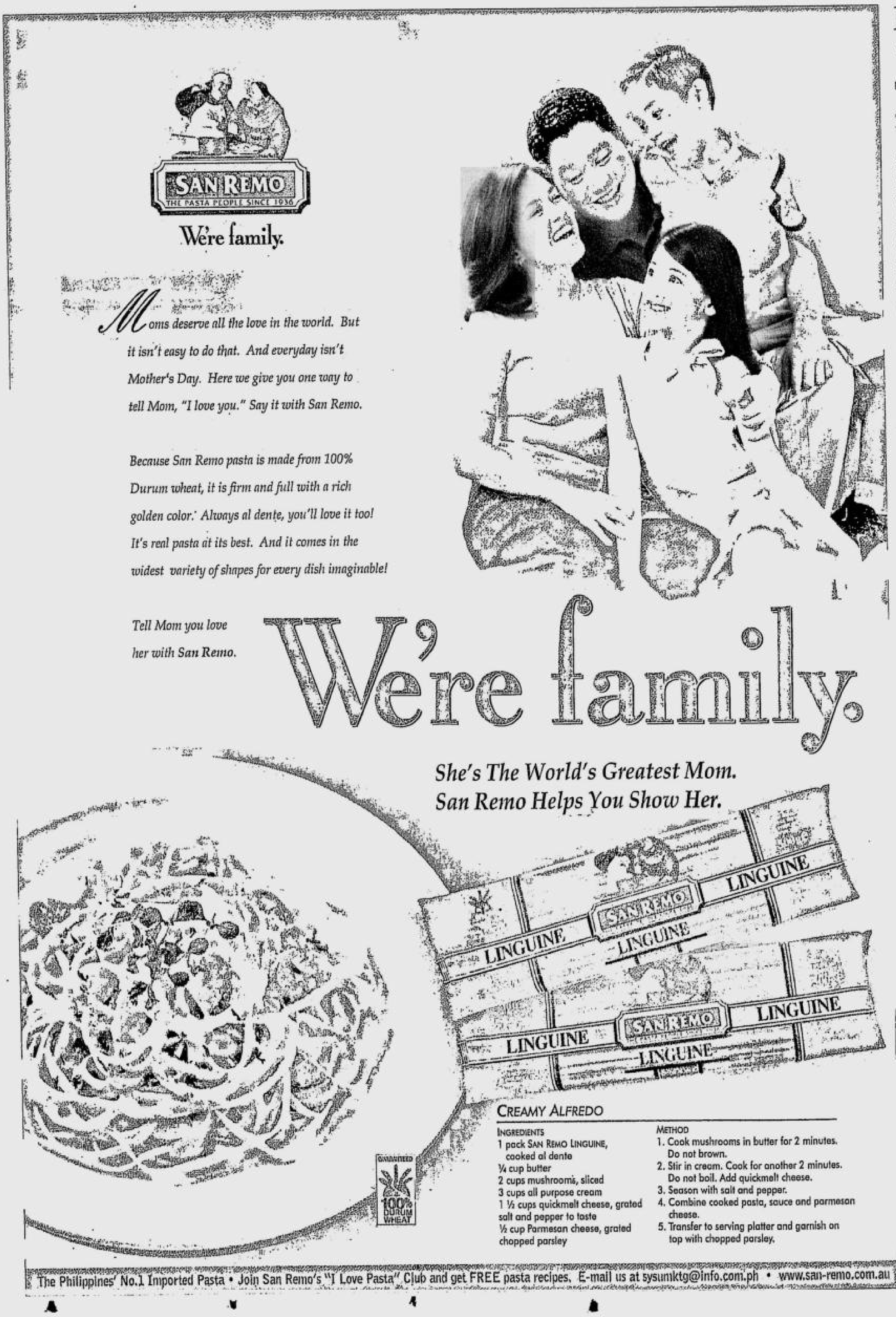
With solid praise at film festivals, "Far From Heaven" could bring Moore another Oscar nomination. She stars as a woman whose seemingly ideal life crumbles amid '50s racism and homophobia as her husband (Dennis Quaid) takes a male lover and she begins a tentative romance with her black gardener (Dennis Haysbert).

The film is a modern update of the domestic melodramas of Douglas Sirk ("Written on the Wind," "Imitation of Life"), with rich surface colors and textures cloaking the characters' repressed passions.

The perky dialogue initially draws chuckles, coming across with the wholesome superficiality of "Ozzie and Harriet." The stylized speech ultimately cuts deeper than most modern movie dialogue as characters unaccustomed to acknowledging discontent struggle to express their anguish.

"There's a current trend in film where it just bombards you with sensation, things exploding, big jokes, things flashing by. And it doesn't allow the audience to participate, and when you can't participate, you can't feel," Moore said. "This genre demands your involvement. You find yourself invested in it and having an emotional experience.

"The worst thing in the world is when you walk out of a film and you can't remember what happened and you haven't felt anything. You go, 'What have I done for two hours? I've just watched colors.'" *AP*



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½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
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METHOD
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2. Stir in cream. Cook for another 2 minutes. Do not boil. Add quickmelt cheese.
3. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Combine cooked pasta, sauce and parmesan cheese.
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ALVAREZ. Seasoned musical-theater performer.

Bing Pimentel writes . . .

From page C2

and commitment. Freddie is a close friend of the Pimentels and has encouraged Bing's composing career for some years.

The symphonic concert, titled "Awit--Pag-ibig, Alay, Papuri," has Alexander, John Francis, Maria Agustita as principal sponsors. Major sponsors are Banco Filipino and the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc.

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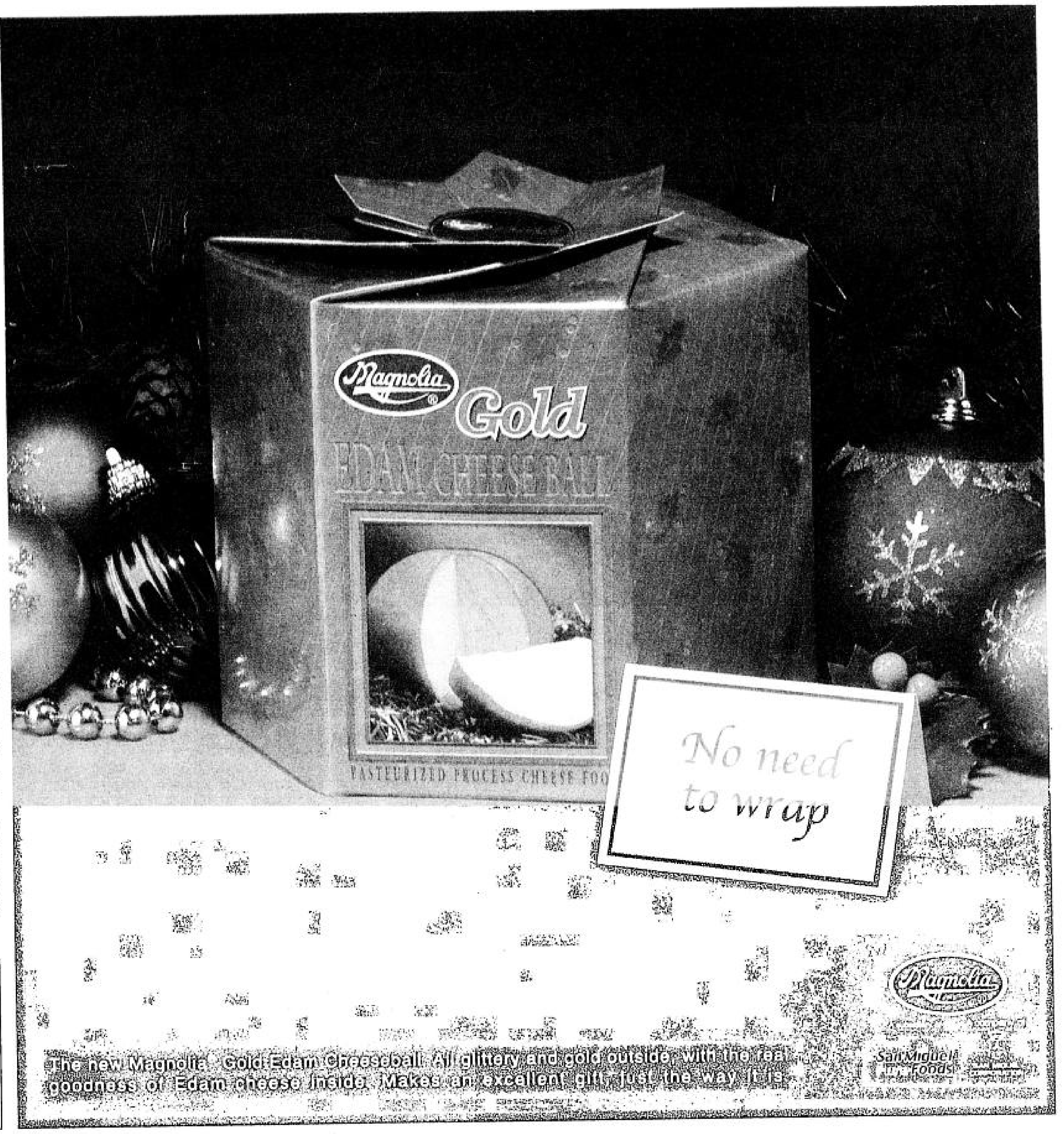
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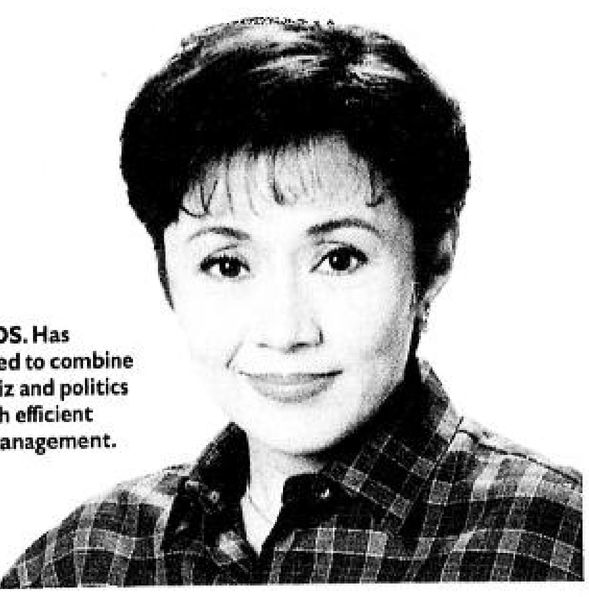
The Star for All Seasons joins the Star Network

By Edmund L. Sicam



SANTOS. Has managed to combine show biz and politics through efficient time management.

ATTENTION Vilmanians—Vilma Santos is finally coming back to television after many years. She's joined the family of ABS-CBN and has several TV specials and a weekly "dramedy" coming up in the next few months.

What made her decide to accept Channel 2's offer when she was also being enticed by Channel 7 to do several shows?

"*Alam naman ng lahat na ang* GMA *ay kapamilya ko rin at nagtrabaho ako doon . . .* and with due respect *sa* ABS-CBN, *alam din ng lahat kung paano ako sinuportahan ng* GMA, especially that time when I decided to have a baby. *May kontrata pa ako sa kanila,* yet *pinakawalan nila ako at di nila ako dinemanda. May malaking utang na loob ako sa* GMA.

First TV show

"*Pagdating naman sa* ABS-CBN, *sa totoo lang, dito ako nagumpisa. Dito ako unang nagkaroon ng* soap opera, *yung* 'Larawan ng Pag-ibig.' I was only 9 years old. *Ngayon, nagkaroon sila ng parehong* offer *sa akin. Maganda ang* offer *ng* GMA, *kaya lang ang isang naging* advantage *ng* ABS, *yung pagiging* flexible.

"*Kasi alam naman natin na limitado ako sa* time, *atsaka yung* GMA, fixed *na yung* concept, while *ang* ABS-CBN, flexible—*anong gusto mo, gagawin namin* for you. So *kung ano yung* time availability *mo, ano ang gusto mong tema, ibibigay namin sa yo.*

"*Malaking* plus factor *sa akin yun.* Plus the fact *na dikit din sa* ABS *ang* Star Cinema, *kung saan palagay ko naka-kontrata na ako* for life! *Sunod-sunod na tatlong pelikula ako sa* Star Cinema."

Rivalry

The Star for all Seasons is now in the same channel as *the* Superstar, Nora Aunor. Will there be any traces of the old rivalry? "*Palagay ko dapat nga magpasalamat kami ni* Nora—*apat na dekada na kami sa* show biz and yet *pinaguusapan pa rin kami*. Four decades is no joke—and yet we're still here."

But would she consider doing a soap opera with the Superstar? "*Ngayon* honestly *hindi talaga puwede*. In fact *isa yun sa in-*offer. *Kasi, ang taping niyan* thrice a week, *tapos puyatan . . . hindi puwede sa trabaho ko* as mayor. *Kung mga* special, I don't think there will be a problem."

In the 40 years that Vilma has been in the movie business, which 10 movies are closest to her heart? She cites the movie she won her first Famas for, "Dama de Noche." She notes "Dyesebel" and "Darna" as very memorable and will always be a part of her. "Burlesk Queen" was a turning point from her sweet image. The movie, "Relasyon" was memorable because it was the movie she made after giving birth to Lucky.

"Ipagpatawad Mo" was special because it was the first movie that focused on autism. "Dolzura Cortez" was special because it was the first film about AIDS.

She then begs off and asks, can she mention the top 40 instead? There's just so much. This movie now—"Dekada '70" is her 24th movie with Christopher de Leon.

Family drama

Is her character in "Dekada '70" similar to her role in "Sister Stella L"? "*Halos magkapareho sa pagkamulat, kaya lang si* Sister Stella L *madre. Pero yung pagkamulat nito, yung pagiging isang babae at pagiging isang ina. Na hindi siya dapat* useless being a mother, wife and woman."

Ironically, she notes that the most difficult decade in her career was also the '70s. That was when all her problems piled up—career, love, money. But in the '80s, after the birth of her son, Lucky, everything turned around.

"*Sobrang bawi, Higit pa. Siguro* lucky *talaga si* Lucky. *Tuloy-tuloy na* after that!"

Splendor in the grass

(Conclusion)

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Speaking of tears, my dear child, don't allow them to blur your vision. Rather, use them to wash away the pain. Empower yourself to rise from the muck that your life has become just because that pair of oh, so tantalizing eyes from that oh, so drop-dead gorgeous face doesn't focus on you anymore.

Exquisite specimen

Remember, that oh, so exquisite specimen of manhood—even if he's the stuff of which your most magnificent dreams are made—is real and human. I mean, he also has bad breath when he wakes up in the morning, and he also wouldn't know what to do when the two of you are caught by a tornado.

In other words, without the rose-colored lenses through which the bedazzled you sees him because of the madness raging in your heart, he's not really all that earth-shaking. Time will come—sooner than you can scream, "Lord, give him back to me!"—when you'll even wonder why you fell for him in the first place.

But, Clara, don't regret having known and loved him. For there's always a reason why two people's lives cross. There are boys God allows to enter our lives not because they are to be our spouse for life but simply because they have a vital role to play at that precise moment—and there are lessons to learn, even tears that need to be shed.

Reasons

This is the reason why, sometimes, a relationship could still break up even when there was a time there that you could have sworn he was God's perfect gift to you. It's entirely possible that he was really never yours to keep. He was meant to just visit your life but not stay. And he visited for reasons that could only be for your benefit—for God would never have allowed him to come, were it not so.

But having said that, my beloved child, let me also tell you that, as you grow and gain wisdom, you will discover that love is not a feeling. It is a decision.

When love is a feeling, it is prey to the whims, caprices and vagaries of time as well as the foibles and follies of human nature. But when love is a decision, it is strengthened by will, fortified by commitment and sustained by conviction.

This, I didn't know when I was 17, Clara. Had I, my life would have taken a much different turn. Not that I regret how it all unravelled. It's just that I sometimes indulge in the silly game of counting the many what-ifs that I have.

Powerless

I was 16 when I first felt powerless against the stirrings of attraction for the opposite sex. As I recall it, my first boyfriend sang quite well. He wasn't tall, he wasn't dark, he wasn't handsome—but he sang to me.

And whenever there was a party, he'd dance with no one else but me. He'd jostle for position just so he'd be the first to reach for my hand after the first strains of a love song had escaped the loudspeakers.

I had a string of puppy loves. At that time, I'd say yes to a boy not really because I loved him (I swear, I couldn't yet have known what love was!) but because there was this thrilling, exhilarating feeling that came purely from having a boyfriend.

Like, girls who didn't have one would pretend not to notice you when you passed them by, but you could smell the scent of envy a mile away—and that made you swoon with delight.

And it made you a zillion times more beautiful when there was always someone to give you flowers, chocolates, cute missives that professed undying love and devotion. And, of course, the firsts always sent that tingly feeling running up and down your spine—like, the first time you allowed his sweaty, icy hands to hold yours; or the first time you subtly sent him the signal that it was okay for him to plant a wet kiss on your cheek; or the first time you seduced him to breathe quite heavily on your ears.

Magical powers

My very first serious love was a god, I swear. His looks were to die for. His eyes would blink at me and I'd liquefy. His half-smile had magical powers that cast a multitude of spells on me.

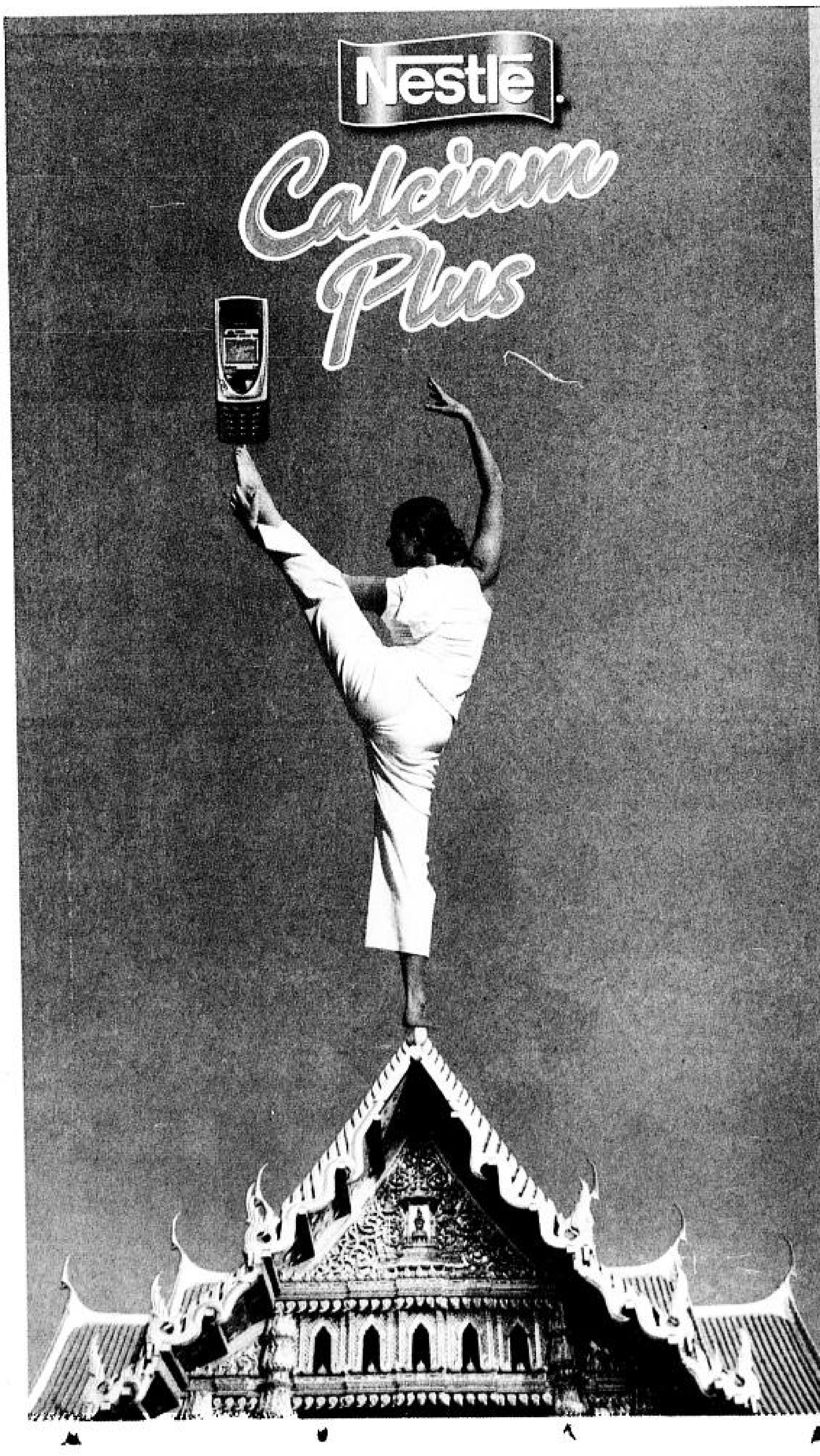
He came from the US so he had this enchanting accent that made his *pogi* quotient rise beyond human limits. And it wasn't just the way he talked that was Americanized but also his attitude and values. I mean, I was just naughty before I met him, but when he became my boyfriend, I became a really baaad girl.

Like, he was the man who introduced me to the pleasures of the forbidden—like cutting classes to watch a movie, or going to dance parties after being granted permission to sleep over at a classmate's house to do a school project, or mastering the art of doing nothing, especially on weekends when days were adventurous and nights were carefree.

He gave me a gold ring with my name inscribed on it. I also had other boys' rings, but his was quite special. I really didn't know why.

At that time, I had a collection of rings from different boys. It was quite dodgy because I had to change rings each time I was with a different guy. I remember, there was a time that I was entertaining

SPLENDOR/ C5



WOW
WONDERS OF WELLNESS

Blissful prizes await those who take the Bone Health Quiz via text.
Text CAL to 2354!

Grand Prize: a trip for two to Thailand with P100,000 pocket money
Weekly Draw: a brand new Nokia 7650!

Instant prizes will also be given to everyone who completes the Bone Health Quiz: The Aromatherapy Center: gift certificates and discounts on services and products; Fitness First: Free trial; Orient Day Spa: gift certificates and discounts on spa services; Friday's, Italianni's and Outback: Free unlimited iced tea or lemonade with any food purchase.

How to join:

1. Take the Calcium Plus Bone Health Quiz by texting CAL to 2354.
2. Each quiz question answered automatically earns you 10 raffle entries for the Weekly and Grand Draws.
3. Each sender who completes the quiz questionnaire automatically wins an instant prize. The instant prize is awarded only once, no matter how many times you take the quiz. You will still, however, be able to earn raffle entries for each reply sent in. (You can re-take the quiz at anytime by sending RESTART to 2354.)
4. To earn additional raffle entries:

   Register with the Nestlé TXT Club and earn 100 raffle entries
   - Send CLUB FULL NAME AGE GENDER to 2354

   b. Invite friends to take the Calcium Plus Bone Health Quiz and get 50 raffle entries for each valid invite sent
   - Text FRIEND GLOBE NUMBER to 2354
   - Only valid and unique mobile numbers apply

Two Ways to Win in the Raffle Draws:

Weekly Raffle Draw: 1 Lucky winner of a Nokia 7650 will be drawn at random from all entries earned as of each Sunday of the promo duration (except for the first weekend, Nov. 3). Senders can only win once in the Weekly Draws for the entire promo duration. However, they will still be eligible for the Grand Draw.

Grand Raffle Draw: 1 Lucky winner of an all-expense paid trip for 2 to Thailand plus PHP100,000.00 pocket money will be drawn at random from all entries earned as of December 1, 2002. Grand Raffle period covers the entire Promo Duration and will begin at 12:01 a.m. of November 2, 2002 (Saturday) and end at 11:59 p.m. of December 1, 2002 (Sunday).

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Romy Vitug enriches the magical language of film

By Ronald G. Mangubat

ACE cinematographer Romy Vitug is so good that speculations never cease as to how he executes his excellent images.

For example, rumor has it that he has a secret mathematical formula for lighting a scene. Years ago, another top cinematographer swore that he must have orchestrated a "little miracle" in the film lab during a movie's processing, for its visuals to acquire a different hue and texture.

Tinge of truth

Vitug laughs off the first rumor, but admits that the second has a tinge of truth to it. The former pre-law student started as an apprentice to his father, photographer Honesto Vitug, in the early '60s.

"*Diniscourage talaga ako ng father ko na maging* photographer," he shares. "*Sabi niya, ang mga* photographer *daw sa kusina pinakakain, mga muchacho. Pero nung makita nya na may hilig ako,* he made sure *na* I would go up the ladder based on my own merits *at di dahil sa anak nya ako.*"

This challenged him to study more and make it on his own. He "wasted" rolls and rolls of film trying to capture a newsworthy moment.

DIANA Zubiri stars in "Kasiping," Vitug's latest outing as cinematographer.

MANG ROMY would like to do a fantasy film to further test his mettle.

VITUG with Celso Ad. Castillo.

Cameraman

From still photography, Mang Romy graduated to moving pictures and worked as a cameraman for Channel 5. But he never abandoned his work as still photographer and accepted other assignments in between shooting breaks. It was at Peta that director Lino Brocka discovered him. "*Si Direk Lino talaga ang nagbigay ng* break *sa akin. Magaling syang mag-*mentor."

His first film as a professional cinematographer was "Tatlo, Dalawa, Isa," a three-episode dramatic movie starring Hilda Koronel and Lolita Rodriguez. "*Kalahati pa lang ng pelikula, nag-*resign *ako kasi di ako sinusunod nung ibang* crew," Mang Romy remembers.

"When Lino heard this, *kinausap nya ako at sabi sa akin,* I want a man to be either moving forward or backward but not standing still. *Di ko makalimutan 'yon. Nagising ako. Sabi ko, sige direk,* I'll continue."

From there, Romy Vitug has photographed a long string of movies, some of which he hardly recalls the titles anymore. He has worked with the best directors in the country. "*Sina* Laurice Guillen, Eddie Garcia, Marilou Diaz Abaya, Carlitos Siguion Reyna, Romy Suzara, Ishmael Bernal, Celso Ad Castillo—*lahat sila nakasundo ko at marami akong natutunan sa kanila.*"

His latest outing as cinematographer is "Kasiping," directed by Augusto Salvador.

Critics have marveled at the way he plays with light and shadows and instill silent poetry in capturing the movements of actors and nature.

The ability to flesh out the film narrative and visualize content requires a prodigious gift that, through the years, Mang Romy has nurtured and mastered.

Favorite work

He considers Celso Ad Castillo's "Ang Alamat ni Julian Makabayan" as his favorite work because he was able to visually capture the zeitgeist of the film. He admits that his forte is drama and finds it difficult to shoot action movies.

Given the chance, Mang Romy would like to work on a fantasy film to further test his mettle. He also wants to shoot a colored film that wouldn't use bright colors. "*Yung* colored *na pelikula na parang* black and white *ang dating. Kaya lang, walang* producer *na magugustuhan 'yon,*" he sighs.

He is happy that the current crop of cinematographers has good education and training, but advises them not to get frustrated easily. "*Marami dyan, mga* trained abroad *at sanay sa mga hi-tech na* equipment. *Pag-uwi dito, madi-*disappoint *kasi luma yung gamit.*

"*Dapat marunong silang mag-*adjust. *At saka dapat maintindihan nila na kahit na* hi-tech *ang* equipment *mo, nagkakatalo yan sa* idea. *Dapat maintindihan mo yung kwento.*

"It's no different from being a painter. *Na sa 'yo lahat ng* tools *pero ano'ng ipipinta mo kung wala kang* idea?"

Mang Romy adds that a trait of a good cinematographer is a solid background in the arts.

Truly, whatever film genre Mang Romy handles, he makes it a point to do his best, using his intelligent eyes to further enrich the magical language of film.

Splendor in the grass

From page C4

two of them at the same time. One was in the patio in front of the house, the other was at the terrace at the back. As I went back and forth from one to the other, I made sure to match my ring with whoever I was with.

Another girl

My Amboy boyfriend was the reason I got married early. I found out he had another girl. No, I didn't even bother to quarrel with him. I simply said yes to another suitor.

Two weeks passed, my Amboy wanted us to reconcile, I agreed. Then, one night, my other boyfriend stoned our house. I was mortified. Needless to say, I was a messy mass of confusion and, soon, my penchant for playing footsies with danger caught up with me.

When this other boyfriend asked me to go with him, I did. And that was how I began to tread the long, circuitous road that led me to the altar.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, it's how *not* to live your life and this is my way of cautioning you—don't sail through the rivers of my youth, don't cross the bridges that I've burned. You see, God may have allowed me to make all the silly mistakes I made precisely for you, my dearest child, to learn from them. Perhaps, in this life, I've paid dues enough for the two of us.

Perhaps, my perdition is your redemption?

"Splendor in the Grass." I first watched it with my mom. We talked about it—but not much. At that time, it wasn't yet fashionable for moms to talk to daughters in the straightforward, no-holds-barred manner that we do now.

At that time, we talked in riddles. Like, when we talked about sex, we called it the birds and the bees. Well, birds fly and bees sting—and I'm really at a loss as to how that got to mean what it was supposed to.

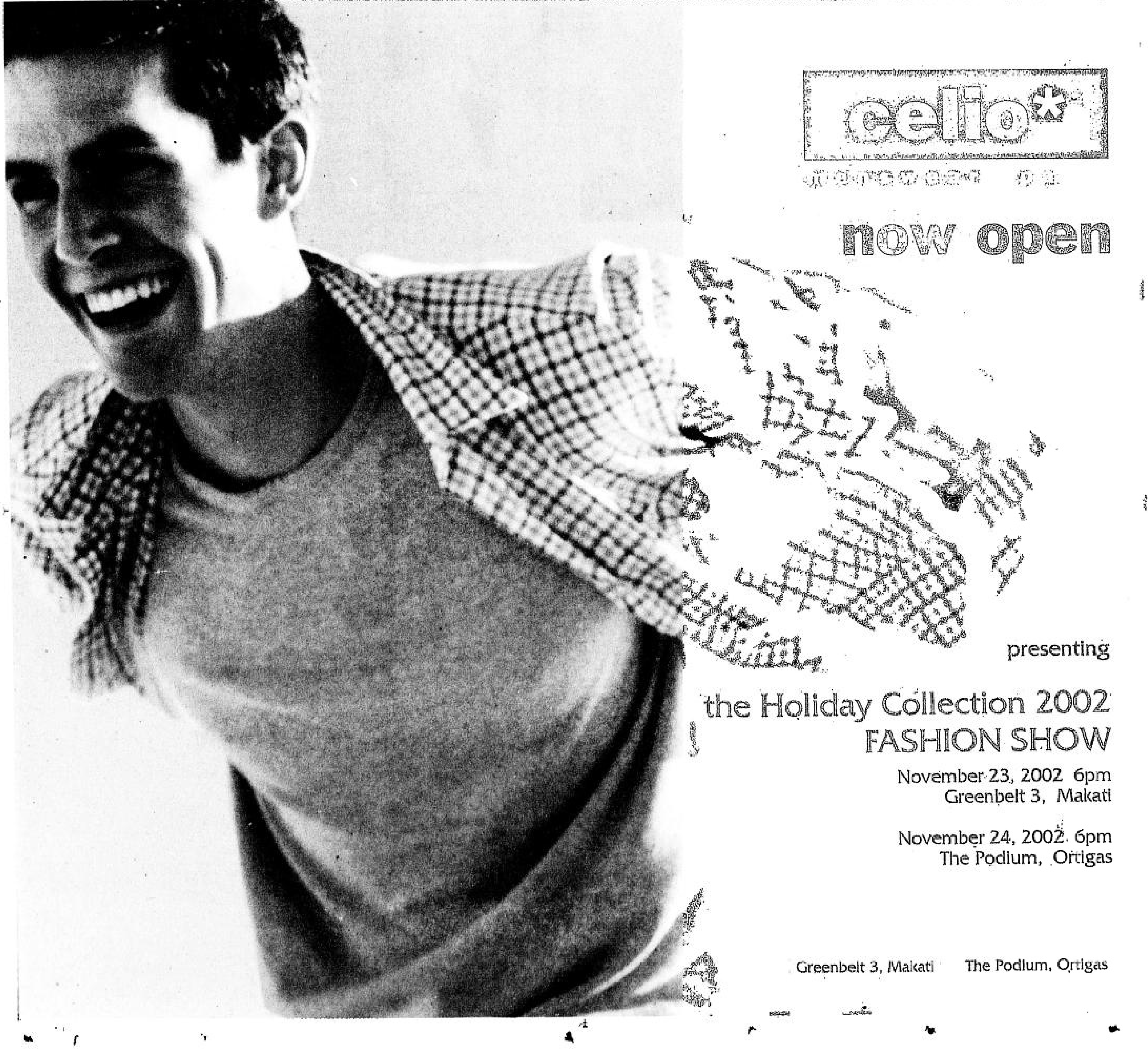
Context

Not that I'm blaming my mom, mind you. I'm sure, in her heart, she did everything for me—but then, she could love me only in ways that she knew how; she could bring me up only within the context of her time. And I had my own choices and decisions that plotted out the road map to the destiny I was seeking in my own life—choices and decisions over which she had no control.

Clara, it is your time to seek your own destiny. I have no control over it. If you choose to leaf through the pages of my life to guide you, I'd be more than happy to lend you the whole book.

Just be careful. Those pages are not very sturdy. They have been drenched by tears, forever stained by memories of my splendors in the grass.

(For comments and insights, <badids2000@yahoo.com>)



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Timmy Cruz discovers the value of music and 'spiritual vitamins'

CRUZ. New compilation of inspirational songs.

By Bibsy M. Carballo

WHEN we first met singer Timmy Cruz more than 10 years ago, she was actively into singing. However, she also introduced to us her other passion, which was gardening.

Bromeliads

Since then, Timmy has nurtured her gardening prowess by securing a lot in Tagaytay which she has called Timmyland, where she has cultivated various plants, particularly bromeliads of different varieties which she now commercially distributes.

Her singing had to take the back seat to this and her other business pursuits—taking charge of the family property, her children's albums and books, and her water business called Agua Fiesta.

But the Sept. 11 tragedy changed all that. It made Timmy reflect and ask herself what was most important in her life. The answer she got was immediate and specific, and right then and there, she decided to share her gift of music to bring about inner healing, by way of a new album

Joint venture

"My Guiding Light" is produced by Timmy's TLC Productions. She has tied up with Praise Inc. for a joint venture to market the album.

There are 11 cuts in the album, all of them written by Timmy except for "Impossible Dream" which she decided to include because "I had my impossible dream to become a singer—and I achieved it."

Timmy looks upon her music ministry as vitamins for the soul. She charges her mind by praying, listening to soothing, relaxing music, and doing her daily Yochi, a combination of yoga and taichi.

And for the soul, her "diet" is prayer, bible readings, Our Daily Bread—and her collection of inspirational songs.

Developing the actor's inner resources

By Leia Torre

"ACTING From the Ultimate Consciousness" is the fourth in a series of books written by Eric Morris about the acting techniques he has developed.

Exploration

Subtitled "A Dynamic Exploration of the Actor's Inner Resources," the book delves into the unconscious and its tenuous links to the conscious, and how these links can be strengthened in order to give an actor a deeper well of emotions to tap while performing.

The book is divided into eight parts—"Consciousness," "The Ultimate Consciousness," "Ensemble," "Journals and Charts," "Characterization," "The New Choice Approaches," "Rehearsing," and "The Magic of Acting."

Exercises

Morris merges psychology with his own ideas and comes up with quite a number of exercises that the actor can use to develop his conscious being. He believes that the connection between the conscious and unconscious cannot be successfully established without first developing the conscious to its fullest capacity.

These exercises are geared towards improving one's curiosity, imagination, awareness, sensitivity, perception, interest, knowledge, concern and affinity for all life.

After the conscious has been thoroughly "exercised," it's the unconscious' turn. This is where Freud and Jung can be felt most strongly. Two of the techniques that Morris suggests to improve one's unconscious concern dreams and intuition. Understanding his dreams and strengthening his intuition will help an actor make increasingly frequent connections with his unconscious.

State

The term "ultimate consciousness" also comes in here. Morris describes this state as one in which an actor is fully conscious while making a connection with his unconscious, thus imbuing whatever he is doing with the full range of what he is feeling—both consciously and unconsciously. Doing so makes the character he creates more real, affecting, dynamic and believable.

Exercises in this regard include The Primal Moan, Primitive Abandonment, Switch-Trick Exercise in Fear and Terror Areas, The Ultimate Consciousness Trio and Animal Explorations.

Relationship

In the third chapter, "Ensemble," Morris defines the term this way: "Ensemble is reached in a relationship, on stage, when two or more actors are communicating on a moment-to-moment level, affecting each other and responding impulsively to the way they have been affected."

Very profound—and hard to achieve. That's why Morris has developed more exercises for the achievement of this goal—Being Workout, Intimate Sharing, Double Exposure; Wonder, Perceive and Observe; Telepathy, Blind Communication, Imaginary Monologues and Believability.

The chapters that follow discuss various applications of the lessons taught thus far, and how their efficiency can be maximized and have the most stunning impact on performers, and ultimately on the audience.

Philippine Madrigal Singers in Yuletide dinner-concert

THE WORLD renowned Philippine Madrigal Singers usher in the Christmas season with a dinner-concert, "The Madrigal Feast" to be held on Nov. 30 at Club Filipino, San Juan, Greenhills, Metro Manila.

Presented by the Indiana University Alumni Foundation, "The Madrigal Feast" reprises a traditional Yuletide cultural event held annually by the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington, Indiana, USA.

"The Madrigal Feast" will add a unique flavor to the concert scene. The production features elements that symbolize Renaissance and medieval Christmas and harvest festival traditions practiced more than 400 years ago. The Philippine Madrigal Singers will be dressed in costumes of that period.

National Artist for Music and Indiana University Distinguished Alumni Service Awardee Andrea O. Veneracion has planned a repertoire of melodious madrigals and carols from Italy, England, Germany and the Philippines.

The dinner-concert is being held to raise funds for scholarships for promising students especially in fields where Indiana University has consistently excelled. Call Dr. Alice Bustos Telfax 633-3403; Fe Guinto (Café Med) 633-3880 or 633-3859, and Manny Bagtas (NAPPA) Bistro) 421-3081.

Alan Bacani continues to inspire good works

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

TEN years ago, 17-year-old Alan Abad died of a brain tumor. His vision was to become neurosurgeon.

Foundation

Alan serves as an inspiration to his parents, Cely and Cery, who put up the Alan Bacani Foundation (Abaf), aiding children too poor to afford the prohibitive cost of brain-related diagnostics and surgery. The foundation has attended to 200 children since it was organized in 1993.

Another foundation was set up by his parents, the Alan Gerard Bacani Abad Scholarship (Agbas) supporting outstanding Ateneo high school grads who, having passed the Ateneo college entrance exams, cannot afford the college tuition fees.

In observance of Alan's 10th year in heaven, Abaf is extending help to Fr. J.J Jesens, SJ of Ateneo de Davao University's Daily Bread Feeding Program for 150 bright students. Most of them come from cultural minorities. Fr. Robert Hogan, SJ has started a program to help feed those 150 poor students.

Daily meals

Cely and Cery decided to cover the daily meals of 10 students

ALAN/ C7

ALAN G. B. Abad's statue on Narnia Isle, Samal City, Davao.

ABAD. His parents have put up a foundation in his name.

TWM 5 to pay tribute to Filipino jazz master

THE WORLD of Music (TWM) concert will pay tribute to Angel Peña, the definitive Filipino jazz master, as one of the highlights of its second offering at the Shangri-La Plaza at 5 p.m. on Nov. 30.

Now on its 5th season, TWM 5 is being presented by No Curfew in cooperation with Shangri-La Plaza.

Principal arranger

Angel Pena is a *balikbayan* and for 20 years was the principal arranger of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. For the TWM 5 concert, two of his arrangements will be performed by The UP Jazz Ensemble under the baton of Ryben Maigue.

One of them, entitled "Basilan," a composition of Richie Quirino, will have its premiere during the concert. Masterfully arranged by Peña, it will fuse indigenous rhythms with European classical and avant-garde techniques and American big band jazz techniques.

Composition

The other piece is an arrangement of a composition by Freddie Kaufmann, who played with the Executive Band.

Joining the UP Jazz Ensemble will be Kyla, hailed as "best new artist" by MTV Pilipinas.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV 23 - NOV 29

CH	2	[illegible]	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis 9:30 FPJ Action Cinema 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night Specials *Mandy Moore* 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Hot Ticket 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *See You on Board .Lani*	7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 The Beast Machines 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7.00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 Specials on E! 8.00 Movies on E! 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild on *East Coast*
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	8:00 The Working President 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Driving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *Pavarotti in Central Park* 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Snake Eyes* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Beverly Hills Cop 3* 11:00 Road Trip	6:00 PBA Games 8:00 Sinemaks 9:30 Viva's Hot Hits 11:00 El Shaddai	6:00 Invasion America 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Scariest Places on Earth 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Antonio Banderas* 8:00 Movies on E! 10.00 E! Original Special
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Alias 10:30 Night Visions 11:00 Headlines	6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Bugs 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Two	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Simpsons 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City	6:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 IBC News 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Woman of *The Beach* 8:00 Movies on E! 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On *Beach '99*
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FABREGAS. She will be sailing with her mentor, Olympian Nestor Soriano.

Lara joins sailing regatta

LARA Fabregas is a woman of many persuasions—a theater, movie and TV actress, a writer, a host, and now—a sailor.

Module

The actress unwittingly discovered the sport two years ago. Tagging along with her manager Bibsy Carballo on one of her weekend nature sojourns to Talisay, Batangas, Lara was introduced to sailing.

Bibsy has developed a module for her baby project, SNACK (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids) which offers, among other things, sailing for kids as young as seven years old in the summer.

The interest soon grew into a passion for Lara, from simple observation to actual sailing.

Venue

Lara found herself visiting Taal Lake Yacht Club (TLYC), the venue of Bibsy's yearly SNACK summer camp. She would spend time there, reading and quietly communing with nature.

Then, she enrolled herself in a short course in sailing and trained under Olympian and TLYC resident instructor Nestor Soriano.

Sailing has since become Lara's biggest involvement as far as sports are concerned. In her free time, she can be found improving on her skill and enjoying the sport.

Competition

On Nov. 23 and 24, Lara is again getting her feet wet as she joins her first international sailing competition—Ford F-150's Round Taal Volcano Race organized by Capotosto.

Lara will be sailing with her mentor, Nestor Soriano. To better prepare herself, she immersed herself as observer in Ford F-150's Taal Beach Interport Regatta last weekend for the TLYC and Taal Beach team rematch.

Lara is also eager to start shooting for her movie for Viva Films, "Sa Aking Paglisan," which stars Christopher de Leon and Regine Velasquez.

Alan Bacani continues to inspire good works

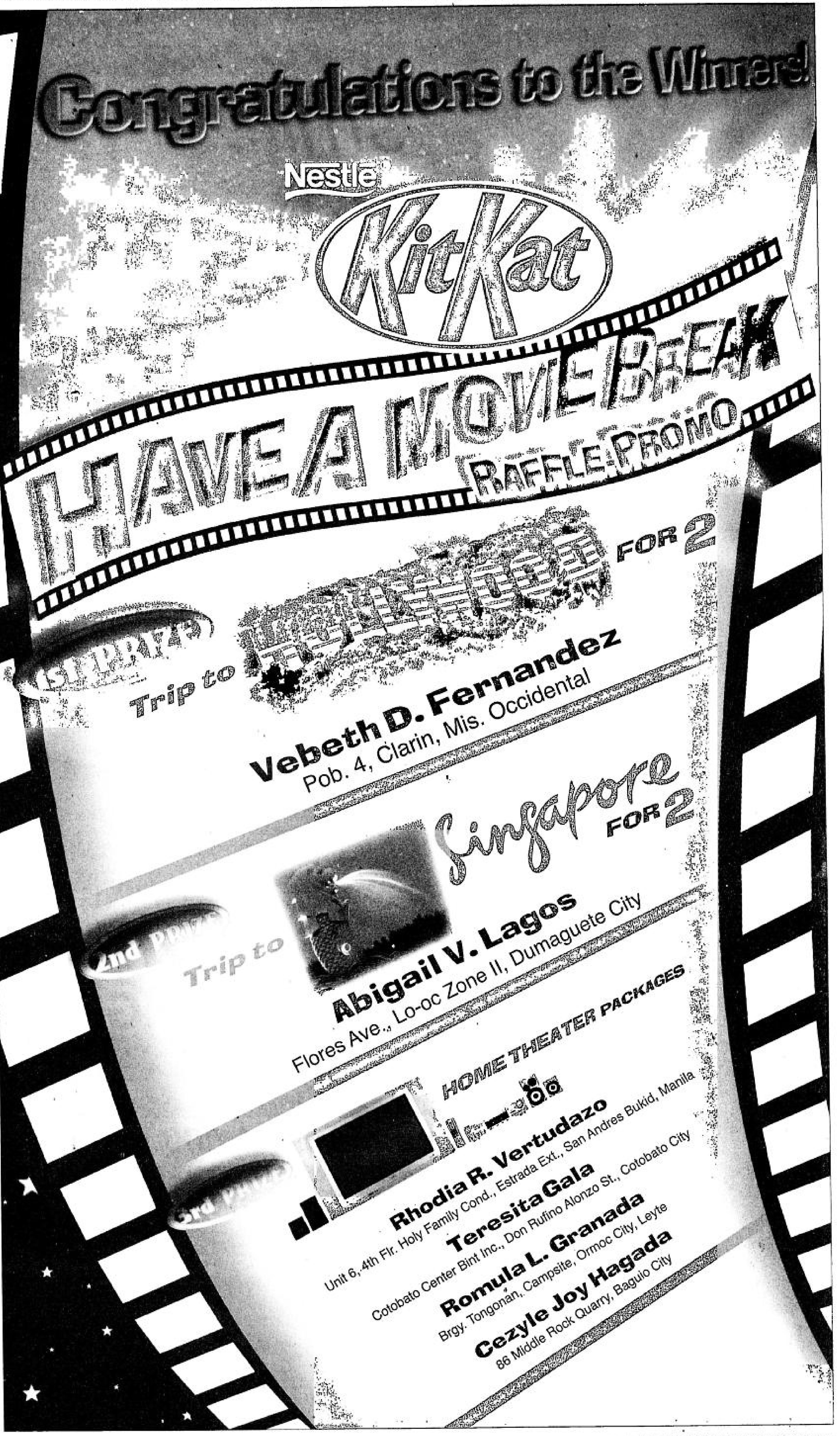
From page C6

for 10 months of the school year.

In addition, Abaf is sponsoring "Come to the Manger" a Christmas presentation of the Ateneo Dulaang Sibol, the theater group Alan loved and belonged to in high school.

Proceeds from the performance will go to the new school, Sibol Hesus—an Ateneo for the Poor conceived and founded by Onofre Pagsanhan. The play will be shown on Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dulaang Sibol-Tanghalang Onofre Pagsanhan.

Those interested in helping in any way may contact 931-9920 or e-mail gsabad@pworld.net.ph or gsabad2002@yahoo.com, attention Cery and Cely Abad.



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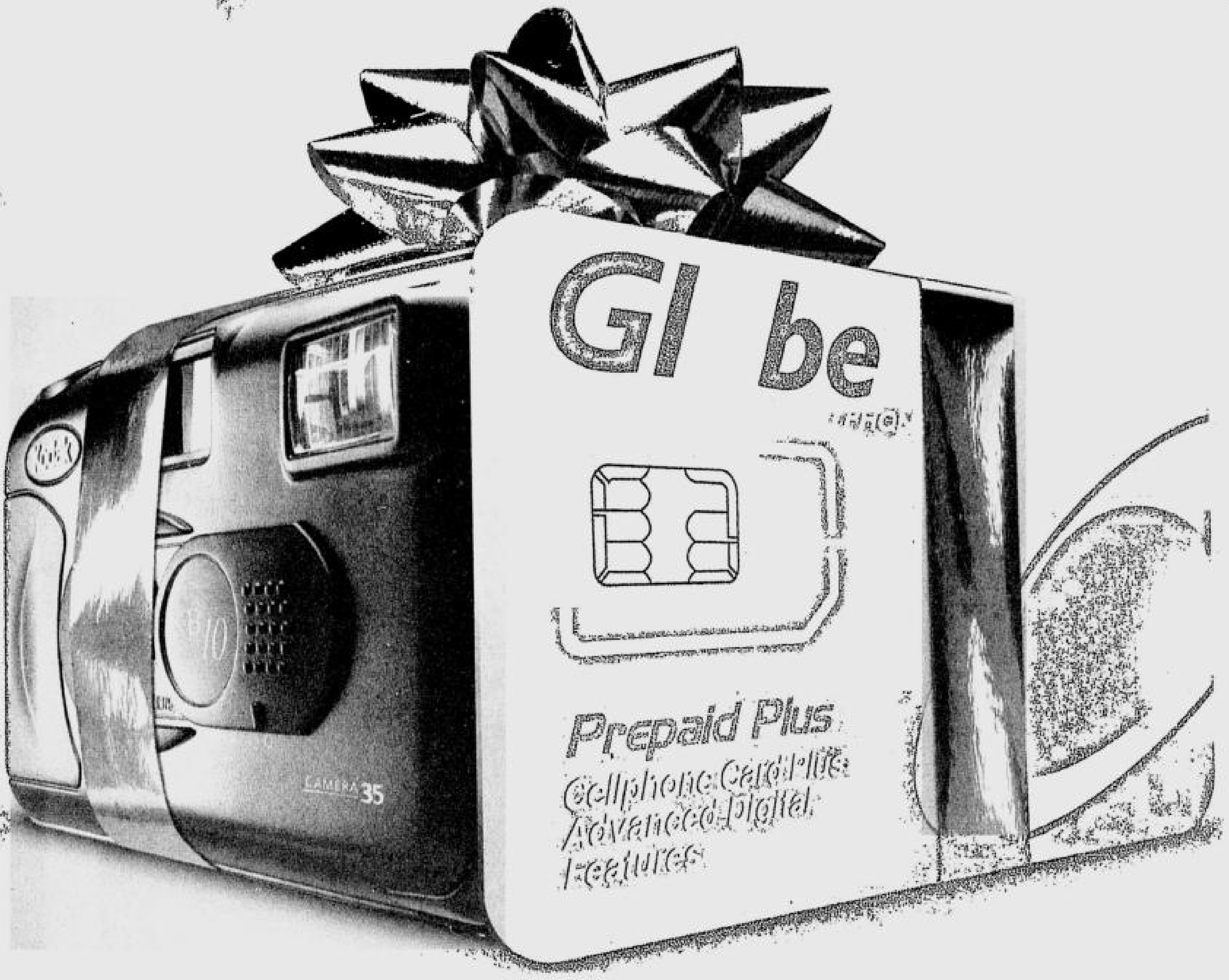

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❄ How to win Kodak Cameras!

Promo Period: November 17 to December 31, 2002

1. Buy any Globe Prepaid SIM pack at any dealer or GT Business Center nationwide.
2. Activate your Globe Prepaid SIM by making a first chargeable call within the promo period. You will receive a text message with promo information from 2977 the day after you make your first chargeable call.
3. Text in REG<space>name<space>address to 2994 to join the promo. You will then be assigned one (1) electronic raffle entry number. Every Globe Prepaid SIM activated within the promo period that texts in to 2994 will receive only one (1) raffle entry number.
4. Every text message sent to 2994 will only be charged P1.00.
5. Globe will give away Kodak KB10 camera packages (with 1 box Kodak Max Exp 24-shot film and 2 pcs. AA battery) and Kodak Max HQ One-Time Use (24-shot) cameras daily. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
6. From the database of raffle entries, Globe will then randomly draw 1,000 winners of Kodak cameras daily thru an electronic randomizer. All subscribers who have activated within the promo period and have registered thru 2994 will be included in the raffle.
7. Daily Draws will be held Mondays through Fridays (except Saturdays, Sundays & holidays) starting November 18, 2002 to January 2, 2003 every 4 p.m. at 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 2, corner Pioneer and Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City. Activations made after 12 m.n. will be included in the following draw date. If a draw date falls on a holiday, the draw will be conducted on the next working day.
8. A participant can win only once during the promo period. If a name is drawn more than once, he/she will receive the bigger prize.
9. The winning raffle entry for the daily draw is disqualified in the succeeding daily draws.
10. Winners will be informed via text broadcast from Globe Infocast: 2977 if they won in the daily draw.
11. Winners can claim prize by presenting their Text coupon from 2977 at any of the participating Kodak Express/ Kameraworld/ Island Photo outlets nationwide. Globe and Kodak will conduct further validation and verification before awarding the prize.
12. Winners who do not claim their prize within 14 days of winning text notification from Globe Infocast: 2977 will receive registered mail from Globe Telecom, informing them that they have won.
13. Redemption of prizes shall be within sixty (60) days from receipt of the registered mail. If the prize is not claimed within sixty (60) days from notification by registered mail, the prize shall be forfeited in favor of Globe Telecom with prior approval of DTI. Redemption period is from November 21, 2002 until sixty (60) days thereafter.
14. Employees of Globe Telecom, Kodak Philippines, Harrison Communications, Inc., Ogilvy and Mather Philippines, and participating outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
15. Subscribers of Touch Mobile are not included in the promotion.

❄ How to win P250,000!

1. All new Globe Prepaid Subscribers who made their first call within the promo period are also entitled to join the "CAPTURE A G MOMENT" promo.
2. Take a picture that captures a special moment with your family, friends and your Globe Handyphone. It can be funny, crazy or heartwarming.
3. Write your name, address, Globe Handyphone number, signature and the G moment at the back of your photo. Size of photo should be 4R and should be developed using Kodak paper. The G moment is a word or phrase that defines your special moment with Globe. Entries must be original, i.e. never made public in any form, derived from any medium nor submitted simultaneously for other competitions. The winning entry will become a property of Globe Telecom.

4. Place your entry inside a white legal envelope and mail to: "Capture a G moment Promo" c/o Harrison Communications, Inc., 4/F First Life Bldg, Salcedo St., Legazpi Village, Makati City.
5. Only entries received on or before December 31, 2002 will be qualified to join the contest.
6. Judging will be on January 3, 2003, 4 p.m. at the Harrison Communications office.
7. Criteria for judging are:
   - a. Creativity 25% – use of Globe Handyphone in an imaginative/ creative way
   - b. Uniqueness of moment 25% – capturing a special moment of human connection
   - c. Emotional Content 25% – portrays an inspiring/ moving emotion
   - d. G moment 25% – word/ phrase that defines your special moment with Globe
8. One winner of P250,000 (tax-free) will be chosen by Globe representatives and will be notified via a call through his/her Globe Handyphone to give information on how to claim the prize. In case he/she cannot be contacted by phone, he/she will be notified through registered mail.
9. Winner can claim prize, within sixty (60) days from notification by registered mail, at 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 2, corner Pioneer and Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City, upon presentation of a valid I.D.
10. Employees of Globe Telecom, Kodak Philippines, Harrison Communications, Inc., Ogilvy and Mather Philippines and participating outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

See flyers for details.

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At 40, Jon Bon Jovi can't believe his luck

By Paul Majendie

BARCELONA—At the ripe old age of 40, Jon Bon Jovi just can't believe his luck—album sales are heading for 100 million and fans show no signs of wearying of one of the world's most enduring supergroups.

BON Jovi's album sales have topped 95 million.

The rocker has also carved out a career in acting, ranging from the 1995 movie 'Moonlight and Valentino' to a string of appearances on 'Ally McBeal'

Rock veteran

The rock veteran shows every sign of growing old with a twinkle in his eye. For Bon Jovi impishly admitted that the big attraction at this year's MTV Music Awards in Barcelona was seeing what outfit raunchy pop diva Christina Aguilera would be sporting on pop's big night.

Both would be performing before a television audience of up to one billion people around the world, and Bon Jovi said that crossing the Atlantic was well worth his while when it came to record industry love-ins.

"Most of the European awards are fun. The American ones are uptight and boring," said the singer, celebrating a career that shows no signs of flagging after the critical acclaim that has greeted the band's latest album, "Bounce."

In addition to the day job leading one of the world's top rock bands for the last 20 years, Bon Jovi has carved out a career in acting, ranging from the 1995 movie "Moonlight and Valentino" to a string of appearances on the Ally McBeal show on television before it folded.

Milestone

The band's album sales have now topped 95 million and, with the 100 million milestone now in sight, he said of the latest album: "I am very pleased with the reaction to it. To be still here after all these years is great and I don't even know how to dance."

He had no doubt which was the most achievable ambition when asked which he would prefer—going with Christina Aguilera or selling 100 million albums. "Reaching 100 million is much more likely," he said ruefully.

On the cover of her latest album "Stripped," the sultry singer appears naked from the waist up. As one admiring American critic wrote: "a couple of strategically placed hair extensions are the only thing standing between her and a guest spot on the next 'Girls Gone Wild' video."

Admiration

Bon Jovi, the handsome lead singer in one of rock music's longest-lasting supergroups, was full of admiration for her obvious charms. But it was all light-hearted stuff, a rock idol playing up his image in a hedonistic world of excess where rock icons are so often surrounded by eager groupies.

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gentxt RULES

M 1 1 of thm?
It's my birthday today - and minutes after midnight, the texts & picture messages rush in. Awww. I have at least 20 well-wishers, and I haven't actually spoken to any of them. Such is a birthday in the time of text.

Now, as a huge telco launches a series of commercials about "Gentxt" - for phone users 13 and up, though the ads are pitched squarely at teenagers -- you wonder: who or what, really, is Gentxt? When everyone from your dad to the "manang" at the canteen wants your new ringtone, could there really still be a Generation Text?

Your own space
Ah, text. When our descendants excavate our culture centuries from now, they'll find us clutching our phones - and they'll wonder what could've been in these tiny boxes that so enraptured us.

For me, it's that text gives you both privacy from your surroundings and a virtual barkada anytime you want it. Especially for teens, feeling adult but still tied to parents, text is your undiluted identity, the one thing no one can touch. Your phone reflects you, in its look, sound, even the message itself - ALWYS ALL CAPS 4 NO PARTICLR REASON, or W A CHRNC VWEL DFCNCY THT STRNS T BRAIN. There, you can be exactly who you want, when you want, to only the friends you want - shutting out your 3-hour commute, your droning landlady, your headache from too much instant ramen and not enough sleep. None of these matter outside the little screen -- and that's exactly how we like it.

Mall culture <=> Text culture
This is one reason Gentxt has not only flourished, but evolved. From one tribe into a range of sub-tribes - the ads identify textus OA-us, textus Oldatymus, textus Alaskadorus. Everyone can relate to at least one episode, where the phone is your prank accomplice, fashion accessory, cryptic oracle ("what does he mean?"), or status badge - and with groups like this, your gimmick tool as well.

It's a great idea, actually. With your phone you can summon up a gimmick at will; why not add the gimmick places too? From an outfit or haircut beforehand, to dinner and movies or an arcade, to drinks, dessert and even your guilt exercise the next day, you can actually map the whole thing with your Gentxt card - - at a discount. As the ad helpfully points out - "Matindi ang mall power."

Which matters. The rise of the cellphone paralleled the malls' total conquest. As our parents love to remind us, we have no concept of life before airconditioning and plastic. Mall culture is one of constant newness - "Ay, wala pa bang bago?" - shiny choices precooked and served with fastfood efficiency. Text is the perfect communication for this endless browsing: how else could you broadcast new discoveries, pull in friends in the area, make three appointments in a night and change them like dominos from one hour to the next?

No plans are ever final; everything is ad hoc ("Anong oras? Let's see - text-text"). Now, the notion of an evening planned in advance seems oh so quaint - and unnecessary. Who needs a Global Positioning System, when we've got "WRU?"

A Pinoy thing
Text is also one of the few things Pinoys lead the world at. It's still a cult in the US, like us, circa '94 or '95; in Europe it's suddenly hot after being ignored for years. A British group has characters in a play "texting" audience members their thoughts; Norwegians are using it to draw youth to the Bible. Now that it's finally catching on, we can say we loved it first -- and Pinoys everywhere have years of text lore to share with fascinated blond people. I can't wait.

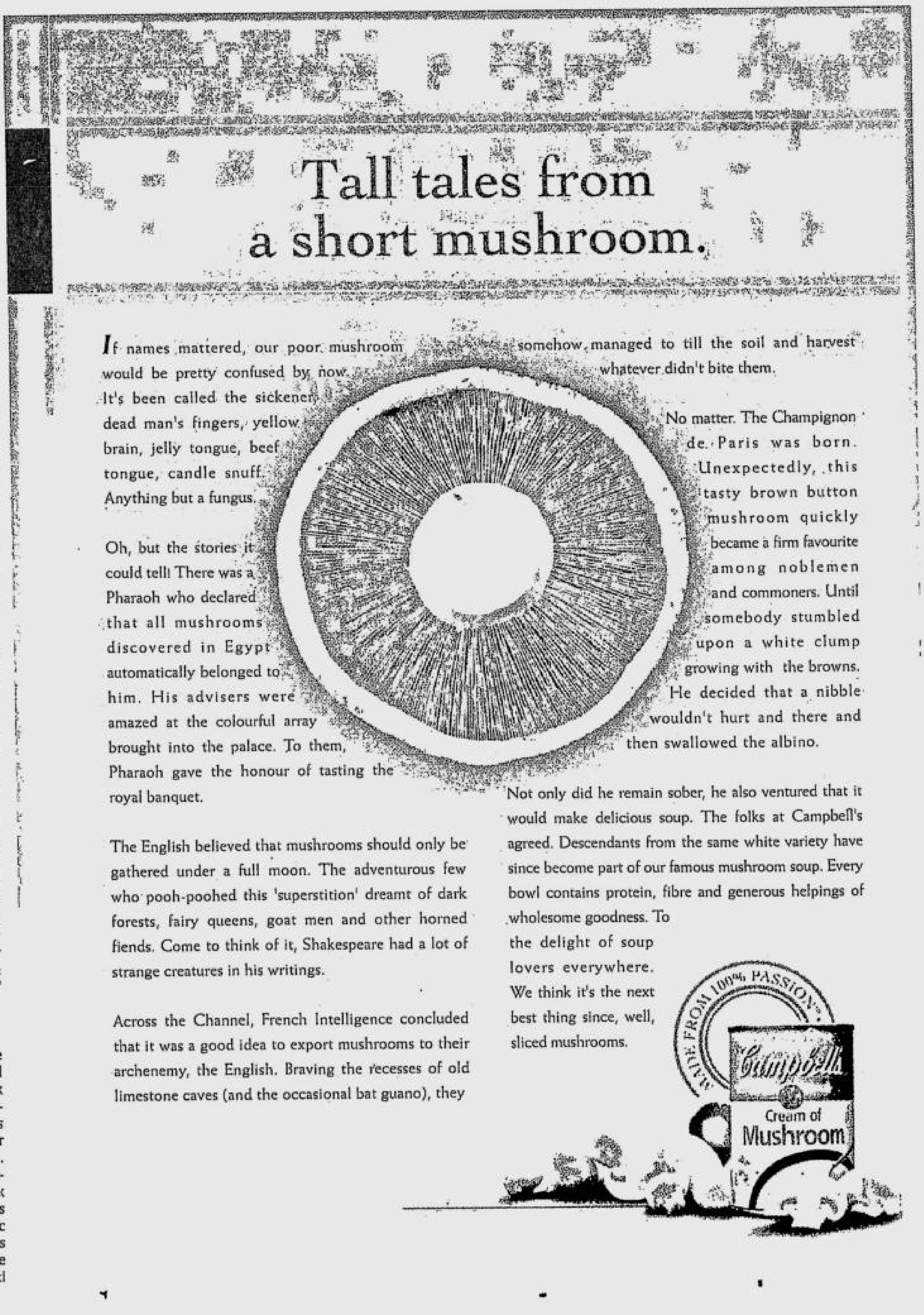
Pinoys visiting from abroad find our text compulsion ridiculous, until they start and get totally hooked. They text when they're home, call when they're abroad - in some weird way, text is intertwined with being Pinoy. And why not? To us, text is freestyle: a set of symbols you can slice, dice, put your own stamp on and give a life of its own.

When anything happens, our first instinct is to text friends about it. It's one continuous impulse: from your brain, through your fingers, into the phone and out to the world. As you think it, your friends know it. Telepathy's arrived.

You don't realize how it's hardwired in your system until you leave. I'm a low-to-moderate texter here, but I went abroad without my phone recently (though for the record, Globe users can roam whether they're prepaid or on plans) -- and I was forever reaching for my phone and missing it.

So who's Gentxt now? As long as there's something young in us - wanting to show off, needing to belong, compelled to vent with or without a response, fleeing monotony for a private space just bigger than two postage stamps -- there will always be Gentxt. And no matter how many birthdays pass, I'll be in it.

Gentxt welcomes Globe Handyphone users age 13 and up. To find out more, call 730-1000 or 211 from your Globe Handyphone.



Tall tales from a short mushroom.

If names mattered, our poor mushroom would be pretty confused by now. It's been called the sickener, dead man's fingers, yellow brain, jelly tongue, beef tongue, candle snuff. Anything but a fungus.

Oh, but the stories it could tell! There was a Pharaoh who declared that all mushrooms discovered in Egypt automatically belonged to him. His advisers were amazed at the colourful array brought into the palace. To them, Pharaoh gave the honour of tasting the royal banquet.

The English believed that mushrooms should only be gathered under a full moon. The adventurous few who pooh-poohed this 'superstition' dreamt of dark forests, fairy queens, goat men and other horned fiends. Come to think of it, Shakespeare had a lot of strange creatures in his writings.

Across the Channel, French Intelligence concluded that it was a good idea to export mushrooms to their archenemy, the English. Braving the recesses of old limestone caves (and the occasional bat guano), they somehow managed to till the soil and harvest whatever didn't bite them.

No matter. The Champignon de Paris was born. Unexpectedly, this tasty brown button mushroom quickly became a firm favourite among noblemen and commoners. Until somebody stumbled upon a white clump growing with the browns. He decided that a nibble wouldn't hurt and there and then swallowed the albino.

Not only did he remain sober, he also ventured that it would make delicious soup. The folks at Campbell's agreed. Descendants from the same white variety have since become part of our famous mushroom soup. Every bowl contains protein, fibre and generous helpings of wholesome goodness. To the delight of soup lovers everywhere. We think it's the next best thing since, well, sliced mushrooms.

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Movie studios begin renting films on the Internet

By Gary Gentile

"A BEAUTIFUL MIND" is one of the 170 titles in Movielink's current line-up.

LOS ANGELES—The anticipated online movies-on-demand venture formed by five major Hollywood studios was launched Monday, marking the first time a large supply of recent, popular films are available legally on the Internet.

Alternative

The effort, called Movielink, allows people to download films over a high-speed Internet connection. It is the industry's alternative to the distribution of pirated films over peer-to-peer computer networks—services such as Napster that threatened the music industry.

Movielink was formed last year and is owned equally by Sony Pictures Entertainment, Universal Studios, Paramount Pictures, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Warner Bros.

Other services, such as CinemaNow, offer movies on the Internet and over cable television. But none has Movielink's selection of Hollywood hits.

"The key is they put their faith in the system and they've come out with good content," said Lee Black, senior analyst Jupiter Research. "They're not coming out with second-tier stuff."

Individual titles

Movielink offers individual titles for $1.99 to $4.99. The compressed files average about 500 megabytes in size and take about an hour to download with a high-speed DSL or cable modem connection.

The films can be watched using media players from RealNetworks Inc. and Microsoft Corp. The full-screen quality is roughly equivalent to that of a VHS tape, but suffers as the image is enlarged. Viewers can pause, fast forward and rewind the films.

The movies can be viewed an unlimited number of times during a 24-hour period. The movies delete themselves after the one-day license expires, and will sit on the computer hard drive for 30 days if not watched.

Movielink is offering the movies in file formats developed by RealNetworks and Microsoft, which have their own copy protection and compression schemes. The files are encrypted and will not play the movie if it is sent to another computer. A small program called "Movielink Manager" tracks dowloaded files and how long a user has to watch them.

Movielink's launch is being closely watched because it is the first broad test of whether consumers will use the Internet to rent and watch movies.

The industry points to the availability of pirated first-run films as proof that such a market exists.

Bad experience

"Research tells us that between one-quarter to one-third of broadband users are interested in movies and either haven't had the content or have had a bad experience with pirated films," said Jim Ramo, Movielink chief executive. "There is, we think, pent-up demand from this target group for a reliable product."

Analysts are not so sure, although they praise the studios for embracing Internet distribution faster than their counterparts in the music industry.

"You have to start to be in this channel or you'll lose the channel altogether," Black said. "But it's going to be a really small market. The majority of all movie watching is going to be taking place through traditional channels."

The company plans to test the service for 90 days to determine consumer preferences, such as whether people want films in letterbox or full-screen format.

Movielink has about 170 titles, ranging from the recent films "A Beautiful Mind" and "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," to library titles such as "Blazing Saddles" and "Barbarella."

Studios plan to provide films to the service about six weeks after they are released on DVD and home video.

Disbanded

The Walt Disney Co. and Fox Entertainment Group formed their own rival video-on-demand service but it was disbanded earlier this year after Fox pulled out, citing regulatory concerns.

Movielink has been scrutinized by the antitrust division of the Justice Department, but Ramo said the investigation did not prevent the venture from launching.

"The company is set up to be pro-competitive," Ramo said. He noted that studios will license films to Movielink non-exclusively. Some of the top movies, such as "Ocean's Eleven" and "The Majestic," also are available on the Internet service CinemaNow and on the cable service InDemand.

"Whenever five studios get together, I think people will always want us to be vigilant in how we conduct our business practice and we intend to do that," Ramo said. *AP*

Loving tribute to Jessica Tandy

By Behn Cervantes

TANDY. Inspiration for young actors.

UNTIL the late '70s, not many people knew the eminent actress, Jessica Tandy. She had appeared in a number of films, but mostly in supporting roles. Those in the theater knew who she was, of course.

Popularity

She and her husband Hume Cronyn were giving Lynn Fontaine and Alfred Lunt competition as Mr. & Mrs. American Theater. They acted together in many presentations on Broadway and were spreading the popularity of the dramatic arts by involving themselves in regional theater as well as with tours of Broadway successes and classics.

I saw them in 1965 in the Tyrone Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis where they were the resident stars that summer. He played the evil Richard II while she portrayed his demure "lust interest." They were both superb.

Jessica had made a name for herself on Broadway, where she was the first to play Blanche Dubois in "Streetcar Named Desire," the Tennessee Williams classic that attracted literary critics with its sensuous interpretation of life in the decadent and dying South.

Her Blanche Dubois was universally praised but when the film version was done with her co-star Marlon Brando, she was replaced by Vivien Leigh.

Tandy had already appeared in such films as "Forever Amber," "Desert Fox" and "Birds" but hardly anyone took notice of her until she became a senior citizen. Then she played roles in movies like "Cocoon" and its sequel "Cocoon: The Return."

As Tandy's stock rose, "Fried Green Tomatoes" and "Driving Miss Daisy" came her way. Her great talent was finally brought to the public's eye by starring roles that showcased her experience, sensitivity and range.

For "Driving Miss Daisy," she was bestowed an Academy Award as Best Actress in 1989. She was one of the most senior actors to ever be given that much-coveted Oscar.

Prolonged applause

When Jessica was declared that year's winner, there was a prolonged applause of approval from her peers, the assemblage representing many generations of actors she had touched over the years.

That applause signified the industry's appreciation for her many years of consistently fine work, her significant contribution to both Broadway and regional theater, and the conjugal artistic impact of the Cronyn-Tandy tandem.

When Jessica Tandy passed away, many mourned her death because she still could have made fruitful contributions to cinema, television and stage. She died in her 80s.

Jessica Tandy was a role model for geriatrics, no doubt, but she was likewise an inspiration for young actors. She was seen as the epitome of consistency, artistic integrity, fortitude, resilience and professionalism.

It took a long time for the world to recognize Jessica Tandy but, once it did, she was embraced by fans of all ages and respected as one of the very best.

'Mano Po' is a saga about a Filipino-Chinese family

By Edmund L. Sicam

"PARENTS" Eddie Garcia and Boots Anson-Roa (front) with their progeny—Eric Quizon, Kris Aquino, Richard Gomez, Jay Manalo and Maricel Soriano.

"MANO Po" is Regal Film's entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival. This is said to be a long-time dream of Regal matriarch, Mother Lily—to produce a film that tells the story of a Filipino-Chinese family, and how much family members influence the different aspects of Philippine society.

The film has a very impressive cast, with Eddie Garcia playing the patriarch of the clan and Boots Anson Roa as his strong-willed Filipino wife. Playing their children are Tirso Cruz III and Amy Austria. Pip's wife is played by Gina Alajar and their children are portrayed by Maricel Soriano, Kris Aquino and Ara Mina.

We talked to three of the film's female stars recently and listened to what they had to say about the film:

Young bride

Boots Anson-Roa's character in the film is seen as a young bride (played by Maxene Magalona with Cogie Domingo as the young Eddie Garcia), maturing all the way to the age of 70. Boots shares that she, Gina Alajar and Tirso Cruz III had to use prosthetics to make them look at least 10 years older.

Boots' character in the movie dies and she had to be shot inside a coffin, but she had no qualms about it. "I've been in coffins so many times already. *Tinutulugan ko lang naman ang* coffin, *e*!" Even though her role is not a very long one, she accepted it right away because of the strength of her character, Elisa, and the impact that the movie can make on the audience.

"Seven days *lang ako nag*-shooting, *pero* may impact, because the values are disseminated by Eddie and myself. I rebelled against my family to go with Eddie, who also rebelled against his family. *Si* Richelle (played by Ara) is the *rebelde* of the family, *parang* history repeats itself *sa kanya*. She's my favorite *apo*," explains Boots.

Another aspect that makes Boots proud of this film is what she calls "travel in time through computerization." The story spans from 1949 to the present day, and thus features Boots and Eddie in different historical events of the Philippines, *a la* Forrest Gump.

Boots gives some examples: "*Sa* state visit *ni* Deng Xiao Ping, Mrs. Marcos was introducing Deng Xiao Ping to Eddie and me, *pero ang* original *no'n, si* Romulo *ata* and the wife of the American ambassador!" She and Eddie were also superimposed onto the oath-taking of Cory Aquino in 1986. Boots shares that there are about five highlights, all of which were shot in just one day.

Two lines

Since Boots' character is Filipina, she did not have to learn the Chinese language. "I only had two lines here *na* Chinese," Boots says. But the other actors had to undergo an intensive course in Chinese.

"We had a couple of classes *na in*-attend-*an* before we started shooting. It's not easy but we learned so many things *sa* culture *nila*," reveals Maricel Soriano.

Kris Aquino says that learning Chinese was quite difficult. There was a coach on the set to make sure that they got their lines and accents right. Kris shares, "*Sinasabi niya na mabilis kaming mag*-pick up, *pero ang* first honors *daw si* Tito Pip, *tapos* second honors *daw si* Eric."

Difficult scene

One particularly difficult scene for them was a confrontation scene among the three sisters, the dialogue of which was all in Chinese! In the scene, they are all panicking because somebody gets kidnapped. "*Maganda ang eksena ko* with Ara and Maricel. We had a good confrontation scene in a restaurant, *damang-dama ko iyon kasi mararamdaman mo* in that scene, the different characters of the three girls," volunteers Kris.

A surprise in the movie is that the script called for Kris to have a bed scene with her husband. In the movie, Kris' character is in an arranged marriage with Eric Quizon. The scene called for him to make love to her and fall asleep right after, to show that Kris was in a loveless marriage but still played the dutiful wife and daughter.

"I'm an object he paid for. I'm part of the furniture. I'm someone who runs his household, takes care of his kids and his needs, I'm not really a person. So, *pinakita na pagkatapos ma*-satisfy *ang sarili niya, wala na*," Kris explains.

Focus on Christian Coulson, 'Harry Potter's' new find

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

COULSON. Plays Tom Malvolo Riddle in the second "Harry Potter" film.

OUR Q and A this week:

From Brenda Bagallon of Makati, "I was looking forward to watching 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' because I wanted to see Sean Biggerstaff again. Instead, I fell in love with the actor who portrayed Tom Riddle in the film. Who is he? Can you tell me more about him and the other films he has appeared in?"

The actor you are talking about is Christian Coulson, born on Oct. 3, 1978 in the United Kingdom. He won the role of Tom Marvolo Riddle in the second installment of "Harry Potter" despite being 24 years old, exceeding the 15-17 required age group.

BBC war drama

He says, "I'm over the moon about landing such a dastardly role." He has only just graduated from Cambridge University and his first proper acting job was in a BBC war drama, "Love in a Cold Climate," last year.

He then landed roles on TV, including turns in "The Forsyte Saga" (with Rupert Graves), "Weirdsister College" and the upcoming "Hornblower and Hotspur."

He was also seen recently in "The Hours" (with Nicole Kidman) and "Four Feathers" (with Heath Ledger), two films that will soon be released locally.

In Cambridge, he appeared in acclaimed productions of Sophocles' "Antigone;" Peter Schaeffer's "Equus;" Jean Genet's "The Maids;" Kander and Ebb's "Cabaret" and Bertolt Brecht's "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui," as Ui.

In the last production, the production and the performances were unanimously praised, but Coulson's characterization of the lead character earned him singular praise.

Unexpected resonance

Varsity On-line writes, "Christian Coulson's eerily Tony Blair-esque delivery and speech added an unexpected resonance to the portrayal of a conniving, fascist dictator. To call this an excellent student production would not do it justice. This is simply excellent theater, utterly absorbing and consummately professional."

Professionally, he appeared as Romeo in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" for the Liverpool Playhouse Theater. He was a member of UK's National Youth Music Theater and attended Westminster School in London on an academic scholarship.

'El Abuelo' is funny and touching

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

ONE of 'El Abuelo's' most unforgettable scenes is when the girls reveal to Coronado that they know how miserable his life is with his six abusive daughters.

Tears

He avoids the issue, but when they start comforting him with professions of love, he can do nothing but struggle to hold back his tears, at a loss for words. (We were saddened to find out that this role was actually Alonso's last. He died shortly after acting in this film.)

The tutor and his granddaughters are the Don's only allies in the town where he used to reign, a truth that is reinforced when he is tricked by the "town fathers" and the clergy, acting under Lucrecia's orders, who try to have him locked up in a monastery.

They fail, and in another memorable scene he grandly and dramatically rebukes them in front of witnesses, reminding them of their past obligations to him and his family. Villainy, he tells his granddaughters, can be forgiven, but not ingratitude.

Lucrecia, who at this point may sound as mercenary as Senén and his friends, is actually a sympathetic character. Regally portrayed by a coolly beautiful Cayetana Guillen Cuervo, the English-born Condesa Lucrecia is a woman of passion whose love for her daughters is evident throughout the film.

Unhappiness

She fervently swears to Don Rodrigo that she really thought that she loved his son whom she married at 18, and we believe her. That she truly fell in love after she was already married, and with another man, resulted ultimately in unhappiness, and in the Don's dilemma.

The story is based on a play by one of Spain's "literary lions," Benito Perez Galdos, which explains its somewhat talky nature. It's also a bit long, about two and a half hours, and more subdued than most of the films we've seen. Still, this restraint is one of its good qualities, as more overt and faster action would have jarred with the general flavor of the film.

Like most good tales, the plot of "El Abuelo" is fairly simple. It is a quest story—the grandfather is searching for truth for the sake of honor, the tutor for peace, and the daughter-in-law for forgiveness.

Other truths

While on their quest, they discover other truths and encounter people who will ultimately transform them—and the quest itself. In the end, Lucrecia, who at first thought she craved only the Don's forgiveness, finally forgives herself, too, and this enables her to move on.

Pio finds peace, but in friendship, not in death. And the Don? He finds out who his "real" granddaughter is—when he already loves them both.

"Grandfather," asks Dolly (who is not the "real" granddaughter, but the one he loves most), "what is honor?" "It's a piece of sh—t," says the tutor, who becomes assertive for once in his life. And the grandfather realizes that what he has found is infinitely more precious.

And with this, the movie—which is also a poignant farewell to the *ancien regime*—comes to a graceful end.

In the swim

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

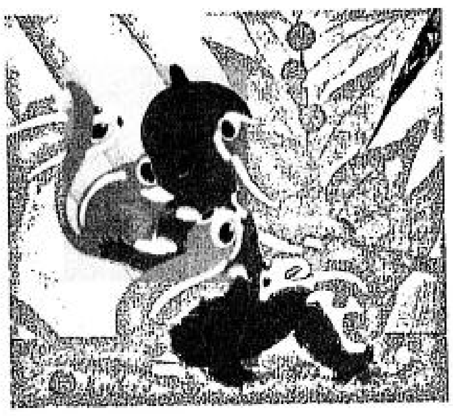
TWO new films require their stars to perform not just on dry land, but in swimming pools or the briny deep as well. To do justice to their roles, the young comers had to train for months either as competition swimmers or surfers.

Take Jesse Bradford, who plays a top campus swimmer in "Swimfan." He shares, "I went through significant swimming training. I swam everyday. That was months before we even started shooting.

"At first, I would get exhausted after swimming six laps. But after weeks of swimming all day, I got to the point where I could do 70 laps straight through without taking a break!

"We did use a double for some shots, but I still did most of the swimming. And, when the shots of me and my champion swimming double were edited together, you couldn't tell the difference between them. I took that as a big compliment to how far I'd come along. My rigorous swimming training really paid off!"

Meanwhile, in "Blue Crush," young female stars Kate Botsworth, Michelle Rodriguez, Sanoe Lake had to train even harder to pass muster as championship-level surfers.



"KIRIKOU" by Michel Ocelot will be shown at Shangri-La Plaza's Animation filmfest.

The film is about surfer girls who brave Hawaiian waves that are so fierce that they frustrate many other competitors in the rigorous Pipe Masters surfing tilt.

The young women are determined not just to survive, but to win. They work as maids at a luxury hotel to pay the bills, but get up at dawn for some really tough surfing practice.

As a reviewer observes, "They make Gidget look like the Flying Nun!"

To do their roles well, the young actresses trained all day for months, until they could surf with the best of them. Their convincing surfing scenes give their movie the action highlights it needs to make a big impression on viewers.

Marissa's birthday concert

Marissa Sanchez topbills a fundraising concert at 8:30 tonight at Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino, Greenhills. The show is also Marissa's birthday concert. Special guests include Dulce, Robert Seña and Rannie Raymundo. Call 811-6590 for details.

Marissa will also perform at the Hyatt Regency's Calesa Bar on Nov. 28.

'Berks'

At 4:30 p.m. today, "Berks" on Channel 2 features these developments: Life gets complicated when Javie (John Prats) learns that Gwyneth (Heart Evangelista) already has a boyfriend, Miguel (Chris Quimpo). But Miguel befriends Javie and sets him up with a blind date with Penelope (Karel Marquez)—who plans to spoil Javie, Gwyneth and Miguel's big night!

Arkdia's first anniversary

To mark its first anniversary on Nov. 26, Arkdia is inviting celebrities to jam with its featured bands—Power Jam, Brown Sugar, Neiv Rated Act Band, Rubi Cube, Legatto, Ice Candy, Overload and Mini Stick.

SANCHEZ. Performs at Club Filipino tonight.

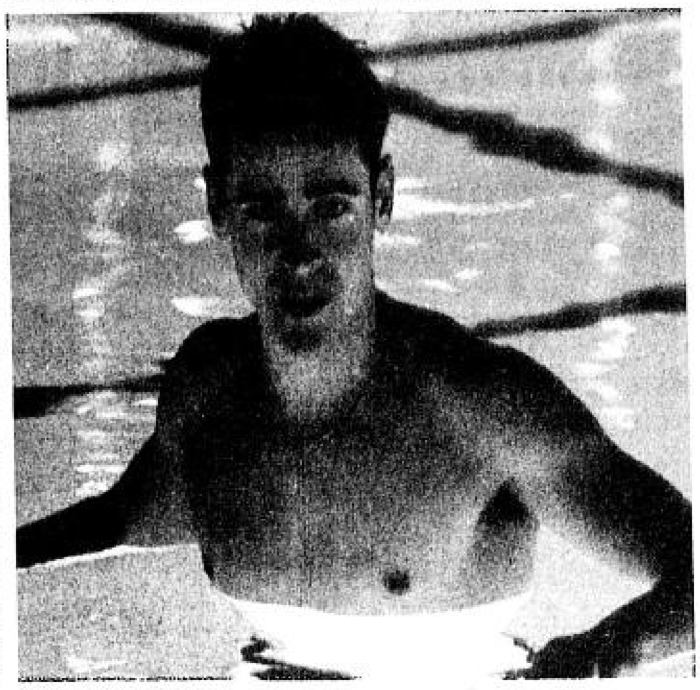
Anniversary week also features Bituin Escalante in a special show at 9 p.m. on Nov. 28. Call 400-9974.

Animation festival

A festival of critically acclaimed French and Filipino animated films will be held from Nov. 28 to Dec. 3 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall's cinema. The weeklong program has been put together by the French Embassy, Shangri-La Plaza and Animagination.

There will also be animation workshops on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 (2:30 and 5 p.m). For inquiries, call 633-7851, locals 110 or 151.

"BLUE Crush's" Rodriguez, Botsworth and Lake.



BRADFORD trained for months to be credible as a champion swimmer in "Swimfan."

At 40 . . .

From page D1

panties on stage when he is performing but this is a man who has been married to his wife Dorothea since 1989.

Dorothea certainly helps to keep his mind on his priorities. She has a black belt in karate and once famously told him that if he strayed from the marital path "OK, go ahead. But as soon as you're done, I'll be the one with the kids and I'll be the one with Tom Cruise." Bon Jovi argues, "Trying to seduce an audience is the basis of rock 'n'roll." But the love affair is confined to the stage. "All I do now is talk and look," he says.

So how then does marriage fit in with the wild image of sex, drugs and rock 'n'roll? Bon Jovi had no doubts about his priorities, saying simply but confidently of his marriage: "It works." *AP*

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TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL (PHILS.), INC - DIRECT SALES

Promoting the Philippines through food

By Mona Gonzalez

"HI, I'm Ju.D Lao from the Philippines." This is how Ju.D Lao, segment host of the television program "Modern Vegetarian Cooking" (which is broadcast in the United States, Europe, Amsterdam, the Middle East, Jordan, Taiwan and the Philippines) always begins her program.

Volunteer

"Modern Vegetarian Cooking" is filmed in Taiwan, and broadcast in the Da-Ai station of the Tzu-Chi Charity Foundation. Although Ju.D gets no money for the show, she takes pleasure as a volunteer for this group, which is headed by Buddhist nun Dharma Master Cheng Yen, a 1991 Magsaysay awardee.

The Tzu Chi Foundation focuses on charity work in the ares of medicine, education and culture. It has conducted some 37 medical missions all over the Philippines since 1995.

LAO. Her fruitcakes are sold in many countries.

Locally, Ju.D is widely known as "The Fruitcake Lady" for her delicious, unique fruitcakes sold every Christmas season, which use natural ingredients, many of them imported (Call 633-0260.)

Clientele

Her clientele includes stars, businessmen, socialites and corporate clients. But with Ju.D, there's something for everyone. Many commuters lover her Chewy Chewkies, or delicious fruitcake cookies.

Of her show, the Fruitcake Lady says, "I never thought one day I'd be a TV host!" The fact that "Modern Vegetarian Cooking" is viewed abroad has become a double revelation for her.

She recalls how people from Taiwan or the United States call, expressing interest in *atchuete*, for example. "I make it a point to use as many ingredients from the Philippines as possible," she shares.

Ju.D is also the author of a cookbook that is being sold in Taiwan, "Western Vegetarian Food." And her delicious fruitcakes have reached as far as Taiwan, Singapore, India, Belgium, Germany and the United States.

Special entertainment packages from Bayanihan and Happy Hats

By Remy M. Umerez

TWO special entertainment packages will enliven the Christmas celebration: a Bayanihan instructional video series, and the total performance group known as Happy Hats.

For 45 years, the Bayanihan Dance Company made the Filipino proud locally and internationally.

Audio-visual spectacle

The "Bayanihan Instructional Video Series" makes you a part of that experience. It features an audio-visual spectacle of 20 Filipino folk dances that will take you on a journey of self-discovery through the grandiose display of Bayanihan artistry.

The video is divided into five suites: The Maria Clara suite dance adapted from European influences in the early 16th century. "Mantones se Seda" makes use of bamboo castanets, the "Aray" is the Filipinized form of "Jota," the "Pasodoble" reenacts the movements of a bullfighter, and "Habanera de Jovencita" is a tango-based courtship dance.

The Muslim suite from Mindanao goes from the graceful manner a woman walks ("Kini Kini") to a slave dance called "Asik," and "Singkil," Bayanihan's signature production number.

Rituals

The Tribal suite dance inspired by the rituals and chants from the hinterlands of Mindanao. "Dugso" is one of them, a ceremonial dance asking the gods for good harvest.

The Rural suite: "Pandango sa Ilaw," "Itik Itik," "Maglalatik" and the "Tinikling."

And finally, the Cordillera suite from the mountainous regions of the North: the breathtaking "Banga" the "Salidsid," "A Wedding Dance" and the "Idaw," named after a bird believed to be an omen by tribesmen.

Easy to follow step-by-step execution of the movements with actual full length performances makes the video ideal for students, dance instructors and anyone who has a penchant for dance.

A bonus video is the Bayanihan profile, a glimpse of the colorful history of the dance company since its inception in 1957.

The Bayanihan instructionals come in five single VCDs and in two volume DVD formats.

Court jesters

Meanwhile, the duo of Harry and Holly can do more than the usual clown act, magicians tricks and hosts spiels for kiddie parties. They are court jesters, minstrels and storytellers all rolled into one.

Before the party, the Happy

TWO/ D7

BAYANIHAN'S male dancers perform the lively "Maglalatik."

Passionate and vulnerable protagonists in films by Saura and Rodriguez

By Noelani Torre

NOTHING could be more dissimilar than the two films we watched in "Pelikula: A Week of Spanish Films." "Goya en Burdeos" (Goya in Bordeaux), a stunning depiction of the artist's last years in Bordeaux, is veteran director Carlos Saura's 30th film.

Meanwhile, "Retrato de Mujer con Hombre al Fondo" (Portrait of a Woman with a Man in the Background) which tells the story of a modern, independent woman and her amours, is Manane Rodriguez's first feature length film.

This is not to say that the latter is inferior to the former—they're just different. We must admit, however, that we enjoyed watching Saura's Goya tribute more.

Feast

"Goya" is a spectacular film, but it is spectacle with soul. With Vittorio Storaro at the camera and production design by Pierre-Louis Thevenet, this breathtaking portrait of the darkly passionate Goya is a feast for the heart and mind, as well as for the senses.

"Goya has pursued me throughout my whole life," the Oscar-nominated Suara said in an interview. "I've always felt a powerful attraction for his painting and his personality, both are still a mystery to me . . .

"I have tried to give my personal vision of Goya when he was taking refuge in Bordeaux during his final years, living with Leocadia Zorilla, his companion and lover, who was much younger than him—and with his 12-year-old daughter, Rosario.

"I have tried to show what he was like and what he was thinking about, what he was doing, at 80 years old, exiled in Bordeaux—his passions, his affections, his hatreds, his hallucinations, his dreams, his demons—all in a world where the imaginary lives side by side with the day-to-day."

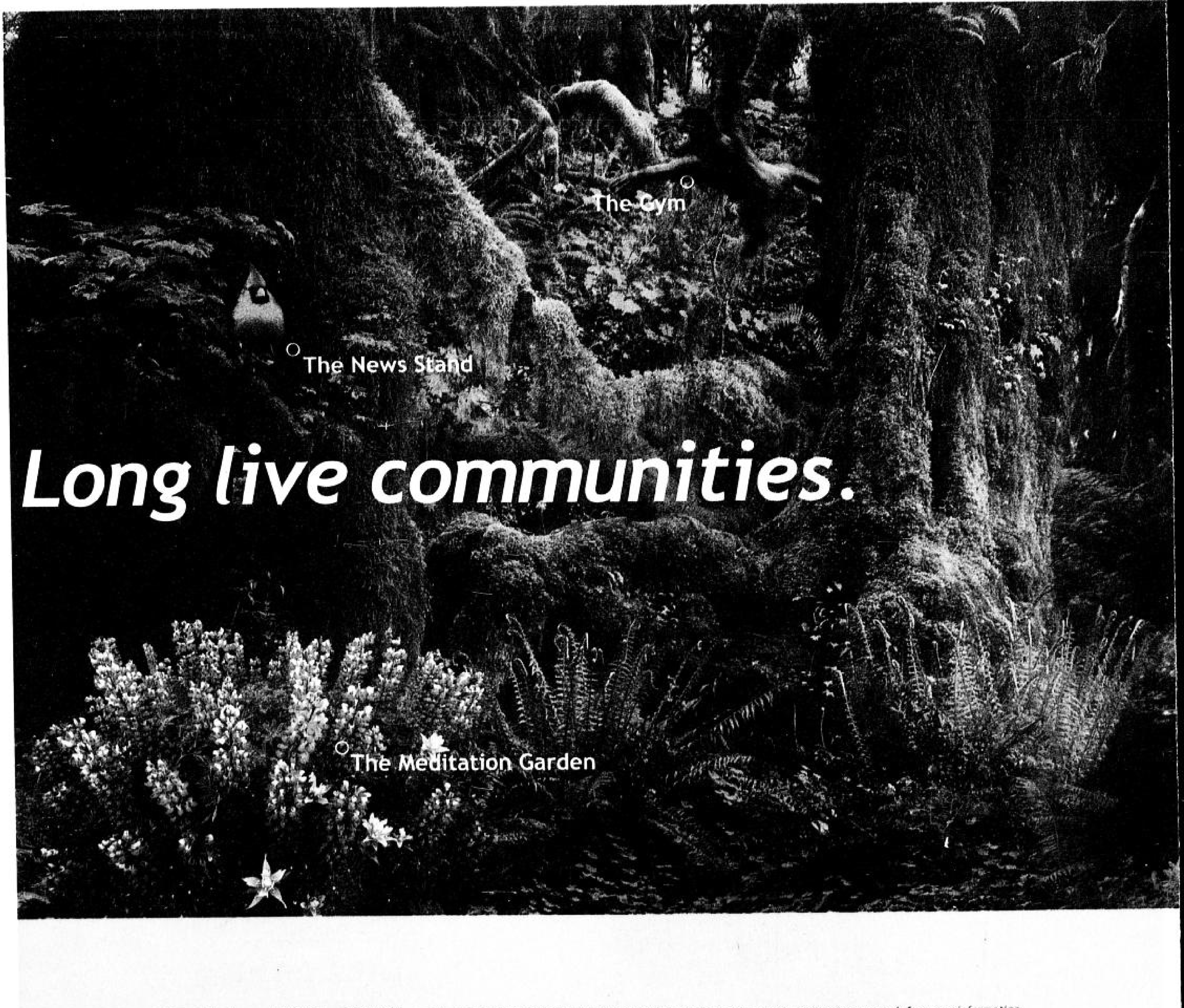
And Saura's recreation of that world is nothing short of magnificent. Of course, he couldn't have done it without Storaro and Thevenet, as well as a superb cast headed by the legendary Francisco Rabal.

Master of lighting

"Goya" is brilliantly shot by Italian cinematographer Storaro who is deemed a "master of lighting" by colleagues and critics alike. He already has four Oscars under his belt for his work on "The Last Emperor," "One From the Heart," "Reds," and "Apocalypse Now."

French production designer Thevenet obviously knows a lot about Goya's period, as can be seen in the film's accurate and

PASSIONATE/ D6



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SWITCHING CHANNELS

FPJ appears in ABS-CBN's station ID

By Edmund L. Sicam

PEOPLE are wondering if Fernando Poe Jr. is joining ABS-CBN's roster of big-name stars in his own *teleserye*. That's because FPJ is featured prominently in the network's station ID for the Christmas season. He is shown in his usual jacket and *maong* pants, lighting the Christmas tree.

That would be the casting coup to beat all other casting coups for ABS-CBN, which already has the Megastar, Sharon Cuneta, the Diamond Star, Maricel Soriano, the Superstar, Nora Aunor and just recently, the Star for All Seasons, Vilma Santos. Signing up Da King would definitely put ABS-CBN way ahead of its closest rival, GMA, in terms of big-name stars.

The station ID runs for more than four minutes, quite long for a station break but the network needs all that time to focus on all the shining stars of the network. The message is clear: Size does matter and you can't get any bigger than FPJ.

So is he getting his own *teleserye?* ABS-CBN's spokesperson Pat P. Daza just gave us an enigmatic smile when we asked her recently. She explained that FPJ's presence in the station ID is justified by the weekly full-length movies featuring the action star that the network airs. He is already considered part of the ABS family.

People who are convincing FPJ to run for the presidency will probably advise him to have a regular TV show for better recall during the 2004 elections. Several presidentiables like Raul Roco and Ping Lacson have already declared their intention to seek the highest post in the land. The elections are less than two years away so FPJ must start now if he is interested in the position. Doing a TV show at a time when the campaign period has not yet officially started is a good way to stay in the public mind.

NXT LEVEL. Versatile group.

POE JR. Featured prominently in the Lopez network's Christmas star showcase.

Nxt Level Band

Nxt Level band is slowly making a name for itself because of the group's versatility. They can perform the classics, jazz, and pop dance hits from the '70s to the present. They can shift from easy-listening music to energetic party dance music with ease.

Nxt Level is composed of DJ Durano, Camille Patinio and Tintin Franco, while Benjie Mendez plays the drums, Bobby Velasco the keyboards, Janno Queyquep, lead guitar and Joel Guarin, bass guitar.

This month the band plays at Ratsky Quezon City on Tuesdays, Hard Rock Café on Wednesdays, Taza on Thursdays and Strumm's El Pueblo on Saturdays.

Sexy stars

It's going to be an evening of sexy stars in "Showgirls" to be staged at the Casino Filipino-Mimosa on Nov. 29 at 9 p.m. The show features Patricia Javier, Geneva Cruz, Lana Asanin, Regine Tolentino, Lolita de Leon, Maricar de Mesa, Aleck Bovick, Michelle Bayle, Klaudia Koronel and Diana Zubiri.

With guest artists Selina Sevilla, Angela Bovis and back up dancers Whiplash and Groove Manila, the showgirls will perform numbers inspired by today's pop icons like Madonna, Janet Jackson, Britney Spears, Christina Agulera, Jennifer Lopez and Gloria Estefan. Call 920-2643.

MISALUCHA. Judicious vocal control.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Experiencing that Misalucha magic

**By Mary Ann Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo**

WE saw Lani Misalucha up close in her show for Crossover last week and we treasure the experience. Unlike others who insist on relentless belting, Misalucha carefully chooses her repertoire and adjusts her vocal volume to suit the venue of her performances.

Her best musical moments happened when she rendered Diane Reeves' "Land of the Loving," Bette Midler's "Superstar" and her Shirley Bassey medley.

The night ended on a high note with the classic "Ain't No Mountain High," with the jam-packed crowd happy and clamoring for more. Misalucha's next big concert is for the Bantay Bata Foundation, which will be held at Father Blanco's Garden in Intramuros on Dec. 11.

Jay Españo rocks

There's an interesting actor in the "Rocky Horror Show" who caught our attention despite his uttering only two words in the entire musical. Jay Españo plays Rocky and his strong stage presence and wonderful body language made up for his lack of lines to speak.

We learned that Españo shuttles between Manila and Singapore, where he continues to be a sought-after television and stage actor. He got his break when he passed the auditions for the musical "Chang and Eng," which had its Asian premiere in Singapore.

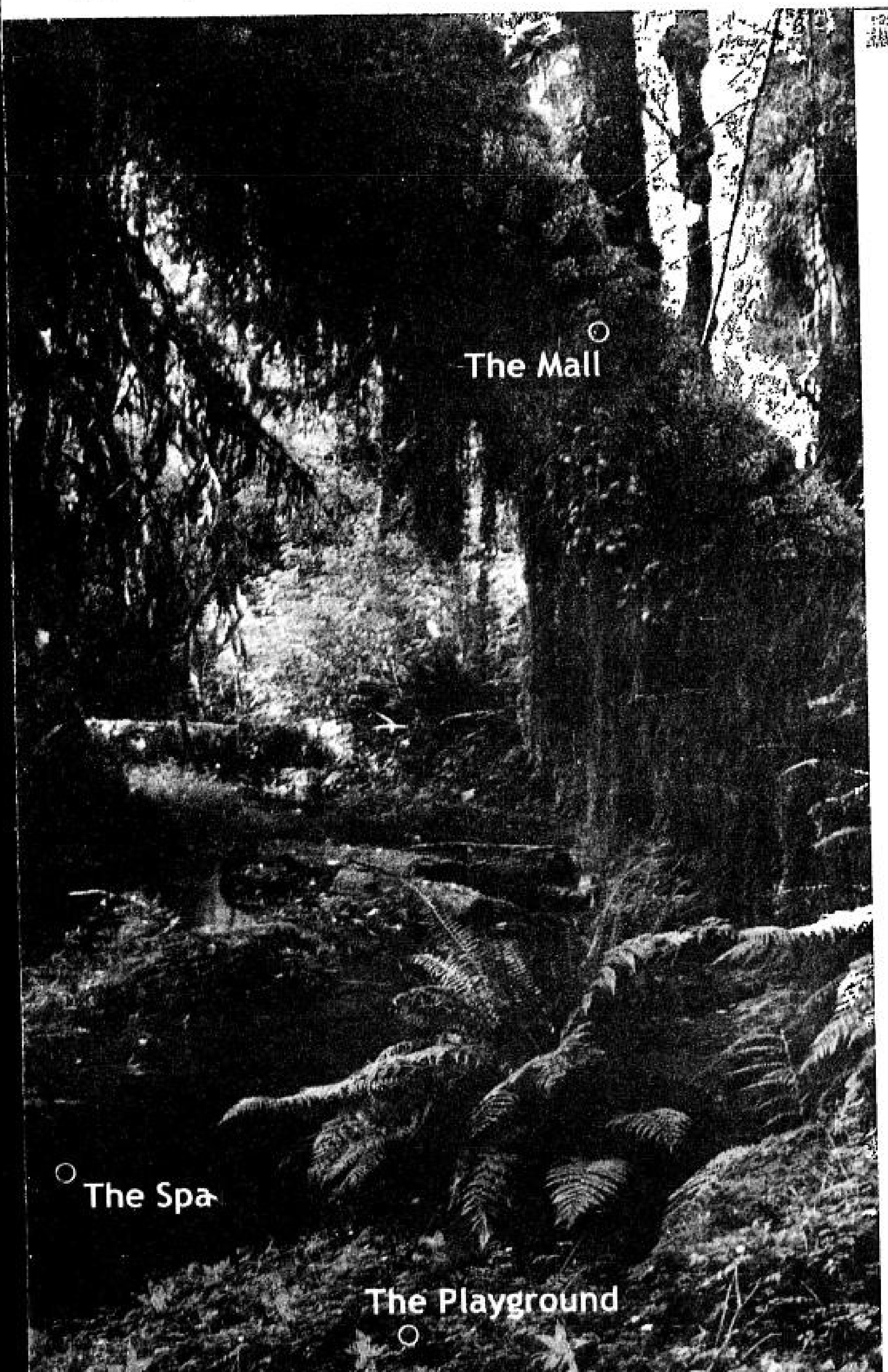
Acoustic is in

On Wednesday (Nov. 27), two of the best acoustic artists will share the stage at the 8th Day Bar on Ortigas. Romy Jorolan, lead vocalist of Acoustic Jive, will be singing and playing the guitar with Paolo Santos, the latest acoustic wonder boy. Joining the two is recent Himig Handog winning interpreter Bituin Escalante.

Laranas takes another big step

After his three movies for Viva Films, Yam Laranas has already created his own little following, proven once more by the success of his current movie "Hibla," where he showcased his cinematographic skills and logical story-telling competence.

In the movie, Laranas was able to draw out commanding performances from lead actors Rica Peralejo and Ricky Davao, while sexy actor Antonio Aquitaña also proved he could act.



COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
AN AYALA LAND COMPANY

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BUILDING COMMUNITIES

From the start, one vision has driven us: to build living, breathing communities for young urban achievers.

Community Innovations, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ayala Land, Inc., the country's leading and most experienced real estate developer. Our passion lies in building carefully-planned and meticulously-designed communities that work.

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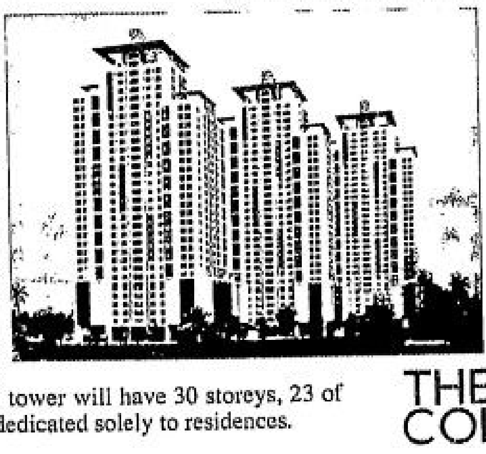
Our first project is Verdana Homes at the border of Las Piñas and Bacoor. Developed for the urban achievers, Verdana Homes has become a milestone for them in their continuing quest for success.

Verdana Homes

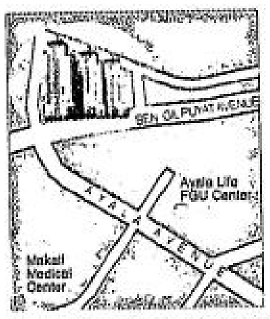
Promising a friendly, warm, and safe environment where families can feel at home, the first phase of Verdana Homes was sold out in mere months. Its second phase is well on its way to similar success.

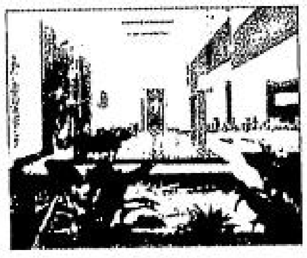
THREE NEW BUILDINGS

Now we plan to embark on a brand-new venture: our first vertical development, a three-tower condominium complex within Makati's central business district.

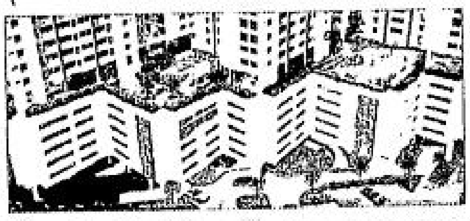


Christened The Columns, Ayala Avenue, our newest baby will rise at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil J. Puyat (Buendia) Avenues. Each tower will have 30 storeys, 23 of which will be dedicated solely to residences.





The towers will rise upon a vast single podium whose deck will feature adult and kiddie swimming pools, function rooms for meetings and events, a gym/fitness center and jogging path for the health buff, a game room with mini-home theater system for hanging out with friends, and a daycare center with both indoor and outdoor play area for kids. There will be an outdoor barbecue area for the family and meditation alcoves to nurture your souls. Residents' guests can take advantage of rooms set aside specifically for them, almost like a hotel.



Another feature unique to The Columns, Ayala Avenue, the ground level will house an inviting mix of landscaped plazas, cafes, and outdoor dining, ideal for unwinding after a day's work.

The first home of young urban achievers, a relaxing oasis in the middle of everything, The Columns, Ayala Avenue will be the ideal place to *"live a few steps away from everything."*

THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE

AN AYALA LAND COMPANY

Harry Potter stories hark back to many ancient myths and legends

By Nestor U. Torre

J.K. ROWLING'S Harry Potter tales are this decade's top cinematic draws, with two installments already filmed, and some three to go. What accounts for the huge popularity of her magical stories?

Adolescents

First, the fact that its heroes are very young—adolescents just about to move into their teen years. This plugs right into the huge youth film market, now the cinema world's biggest.

Next, the stories are steeped in legends that most everyone is familiar with, but updated and refocused to better appeal to today's audiences. As a recent Discovery Channel documentary on the subject indicated, the refocusing remained true to the original myths but retold them more lightly.

One source of inspiration was Greek mythology. The villain Draco's name is taken from a mythological character whose imperious hand resulted in the use of his name to mean a rashly sweeping act, as in *draconian*. His mother, Narcissa, is named after Narcissus, the tragic victim of self-love.

HERMIONE, RON AND HARRY. Younger versions of Guinevere, Lancelot and Arthur?

PROFESSOR DUMBLEDORE. New "reincarnation" of Merlin?

Sorceress

Rowling is also perceived to have borrowed from Arthurian legends, which are much closer to the author's home. The comparative study links Harry Potter to King Arthur, whose half-sister was a sorceress.

In turn, the legendary character of Merlin is seen to have been transduced into Harry's revered headmaster and mentor in the magical arts, Dumbledore (who, incidentally, is said to belong to the Order of Merlin).

More clever derivations: Like the boy Arthur, Harry is rescued by good forces after the death of his parents, so that he can grow up into a hero of his people.

Secrets of life

In particular, Arthur was tasked to pull a magical and all-powerful sword out of solid rock, while Harry is to search for the so-called philosopher's stone that will enable him and others to discover the most important secrets of life.

Also, the troika of Harry, Ron and Hermione are said to be inspired by the "fated" trio of Arthur, Lancelot and Guinevere. At this stage of the Potter series' storytelling, there's no romance involved between Harry and his bosom friends, but who knows what the next five years will bring?

Arthurian legend also underscores the quest for the Holy Grail, the sacred cup of Jesus Christ. The Potter tales' corollary is once more the philosopher's stone, the latest incarnation of the magical art of alchemy, or the ability to turn base metals into gold.

Arcane process

Seen more subtly, this is viewed as the essence of modern chemistry. Another view is that it's not really material gold that is the vaunted product of the arcane process, but the even more valuable discovery of self-knowledge.

As Harry goes through his sequential adventures, he learns more about his capabilities and limitations, and thus ends up truly knowing himself, in a sort of psychological and spiritual alchemy.

In addition, his intense training to come to the full awareness of his potency as a wizard is meant to inspire young readers and viewers—no, not to become young wizards themselves, but to want to develop their own potentials. That's a thrilling prospect, indeed!

Passionate and vulnerable protagonists in films . . .

From page D4

intricate sets. He, too, has an Oscar to his name for his contribution to Franklin J. Shaffner's "Patton." He is also known for his work on Pedro Almodovar's "Tacones lejanos" (High Heels) and Anthony Mann's "El Cid."

With Saura at the helm, this group of highly skilled professionals has brought to overwhelming life the passions and ideas not only of the monumental Goya, but also those of the turbulent time in which he lived in.

The movie opens with the octogenarian painter awakening from a dream of bloody cattle carcasses in the foggy world of 19th century Bordeaux. In his nightshirt, he staggers disjointedly to the street outside, desperately asking passers-by, "Where am I?"

Disorientation

This sense of disorientation pervades throughout the film, which is more of a series of impressions rather than a chronological account of the events in Goya's life.

The old master is superbly played by Rabal, who has starred in almost 100 films and has won, among other awards, Best Actor at Cannes, San Sebastian and Montreal. His intense but not oppressive performance is subtly shaded and is not at all "upstaged," so to speak, by the film's visual effects.

The young Goya is played by Jose Coronado in another skillful performance, and Maribel Verdu is a striking Duchess of Alba, the great love of Goya's life. Eulalia Ramon is wonderfully expressive as Goya's companion, Leocadia and Dafne Fernandez is a sweet and refreshing Rosario.

What really stands out most in the film, however, is its exceptional cinematography that is permeated by the strong, dark tones of Goya's paintings. The artist's' works are incorporated throughout the film, resulting in a lush and slightly surreal feel.

Paintings come to life, appear and disappear through walls, and sometimes, one thinks that each scene is a painting in itself. The collaboration between Saura and Storaro is seamless.

Indelible

By letting the life and works of Goya speak for themselves, Saura and his collaborators have managed to create a film that will remain indelible in the hearts and eyes of viewers.

"Retrato de Mujer con Hombre al Fondo," on the other hand, is not as cinematographically gorgeous as "Goya." Its strength lies in its star, the beautiful and accomplished Paulina Galvez.

The film's plot sounds like a typical Hollywood story, at first: self-assured, thirtysomething career woman falls in love and her life is turned topsy-turvy. But instead of the typical loving husband and 2.5 kids ending, we see our heroine breaking ties with her love interest and returning to her old, no-strings-attached life.

This is a slightly depressing film, mainly because all the male-female relationships in the movie

PASSIONATE/ D7

Special PROJECT

MISS MONEYPENNY'S: *CLUB GLAM* IN MANILA

Renowned as one of the most glamorous clubs in the UK, if not the galaxy,, Miss Moneypenny's is all set to make her grand entrance in the country, taking center stage in Citibank Tower's Top of the Citi this Saturday. Famous for the glitz and glam that fill its trendy walls, Smart couldn't have picked a better spot to give the Filipino party set a taste of the legendary vibe that can only be Miss Moneypenny's. The incredible 360° panoramic vantage point of the 34-storey Top of the Citi is sure to lift the already soaring spirits of frenzied fistpumpers to even higher strata.

Hailing from Birmingham, England, the Moneypenny's empire has been growing at an alarming rate. As the spiffy little invite to this exclusive Smart gig declares: "In recent years, Miss Moneypenny's, the club that set the standard for fashionable clubbing in England,, has traveled far and wide throughout the UK, Europe, and even as far a field as Sydney, Australia.". And make no mistake about it: Miss Moneypenny's was one of the most successful clubs in the party capital of the world this summer, Ibiza.

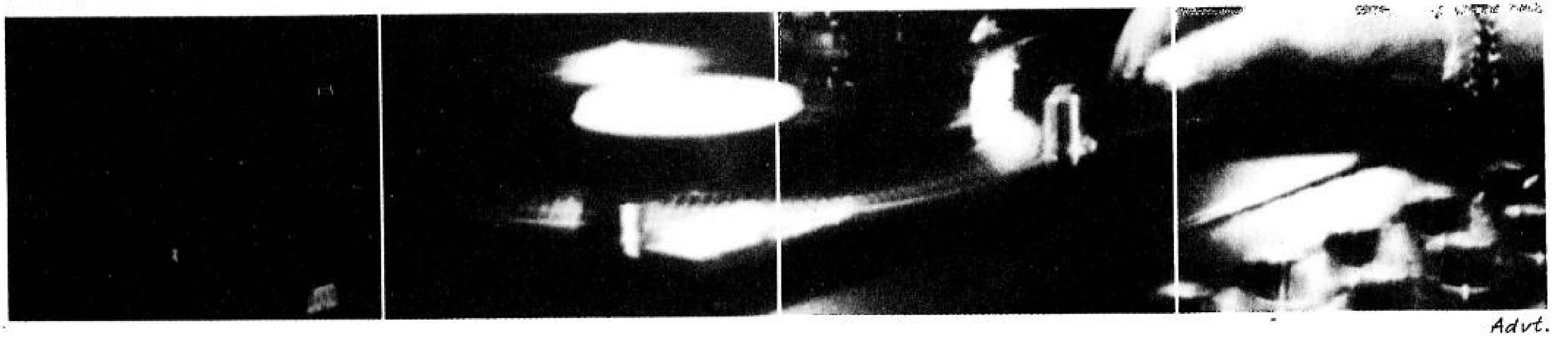
Manning the decks on Saturday night will be AL Mackenzie from 90's dance sensation, D-ream, spinning his brand of funky uplifting UK garage & house. Add support from our very own Anton Ramos and there you have a failsafe recipe for a rip-roaring pahtee! Other added bonuses include an Express Elevator exclusive to Smart subscribers only: consider it their fast-track, direct flight up to the 34th floor of Citibank Tower where they will connect with their onward journey to a dreamscape of dazzling light and pulsating beats. Truly, it's royal treatment like this from Smart that makes its subscribers feel every inch the princes and princesses of Clubland.

For the homies and divas who would rather chill, Smart has a separate R&B room for them where they can kick back to the latest tunes of both East and West coast. And for a dose of glam-pop, that's been taken care of to. Sultry sex siren Kylie Minogue's "Fever- Repackaged" album is also going to be re-launched. Undoubtedly, that alone should send temperatures rising.

Like in past gigs organized by Smart exclusively for their subscribers, a host of new celfones will be on display at the Smart booth. As almost everyone now knows, Smart is giving away the latest, high-tech celfones for free when you apply for their Gold Elite 3500 and Gold Premium 2665 plans. Plus with all the other attractive plans and celfones Smart has to offer, there's always going to be something to suit all budgets and tastes.

Call it a gathering of the new breed of glamorous clubbers. Saturday night is the night Miss Moneypenny's finally comes to town.

A sea of party people flood Miss Moneypenny's, in Birmingham, UK



Advt.

Kuh and Zsa Zsa share concert stage

LEDESMA AND PADILLA. No showdown, just lots of musical fun together.

By Gloria P. Sicam

FOR the first time, Kuh Ledesma and Zsa Zsa Padilla are going to share the stage in "Diva 2 Diva," a two-night concert at the PICC Plenary hall on Nov. 29 and 30. Is this going to be a showdown? Says Kuh, "No, it's a power concert, meaning the songs that we're going to be doing will be tasteful, powerful songs.

Beautiful music

"Expect a lot of songs from international divas. Also, inspirational songs. I think the basic objective is to come up with a beautiful show, and to make beautiful music together. *Kasi, pag malakas yung boses ng isa, hindi siya magbe*-blend. *At ako, sasabihin ko, puwede mong hinaan ng konti ang boses mo?*"

Zsa Zsa agrees: "The main idea is for two artists to get together and have fun onstage." This has been an idea that's been around for awhile, apparently.

"More than a year ago, we were been talking about doing a concert together. But the timing was *mali parati.* Finally we called each other up and decided to do it," says Kuh.

Aren't they afraid that they'll be compared with each other? Kuh reasons out, "*Nasa tao na yan, e. Ako,* I just want to enjoy myself. I think this show comes at the right time in my life. *Ang* feeling *ko ngayon*, we're more mature, we know how to enjoy ourselves onstage."

Costume changes

They will be accompanied by an orchestra and will have 10 costume changes. (They even talked about wearing wigs for the show.) Louie Ocampo is musical director, stage director is Leo Rialp, costumes are by Badong Bernal, and Floy Quintos is writing the script. There's even going to be a part in the show where they'll have fun copying each other. "Paying tribute *na lang*…" Zsa Zsa suggests.

What is it that they like about each other? Zsa Zsa says of Kuh, "I like her artistry. She never stops. She's constantly thinking of things to do onstage and forever conceptualizing, like Music Museum."

Kuh returns the compliment: "*Marami akong gusto kay* Zsa Zsa. She is very feminine. *Ako, hindi kasing* feminine *niya.*" Zsa Zsa interjects, "You mean sultry?" Kuh laughs and continues, "*Kasi ako* cowgirl, *e.* I'm a farm girl. I like to plant, to climb trees."

Public perception

They have both said that they don't want to be called divas—so why is the title of the concert "Diva 2 Diva"? Zsa Zsa answers, "Because that's how the public perceives us."

Which number should we look out for? "*Lahat,*" Kuh says with enthusiasm. "Because each number will be a production number." Okay, then, what do *they* look forward to? Zsa Zsa says, "Basically being together onstage. It's a lot of fun, so you really shouldn't miss it."

Special . . .

From page D4

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Passionate . . .

From page D6

seem to be unhealthy ones, but it has its lighter, comic moments, as well.

Galvez, who plays 35-year-old Cristina, is lovely in a strong, confident way. She portrays a woman fearful of the vulnerability that a serious, steady relationship with another person brings. In the end, she turns her back on this development and we, the audience, are left wondering whether she did this our of fear or out of a deep-seated disillusionment with men.

Realistic and lightly cynical, this is the sort of movie that leaves the viewer thinking not only about love and romantic entanglements, but also about life in general.

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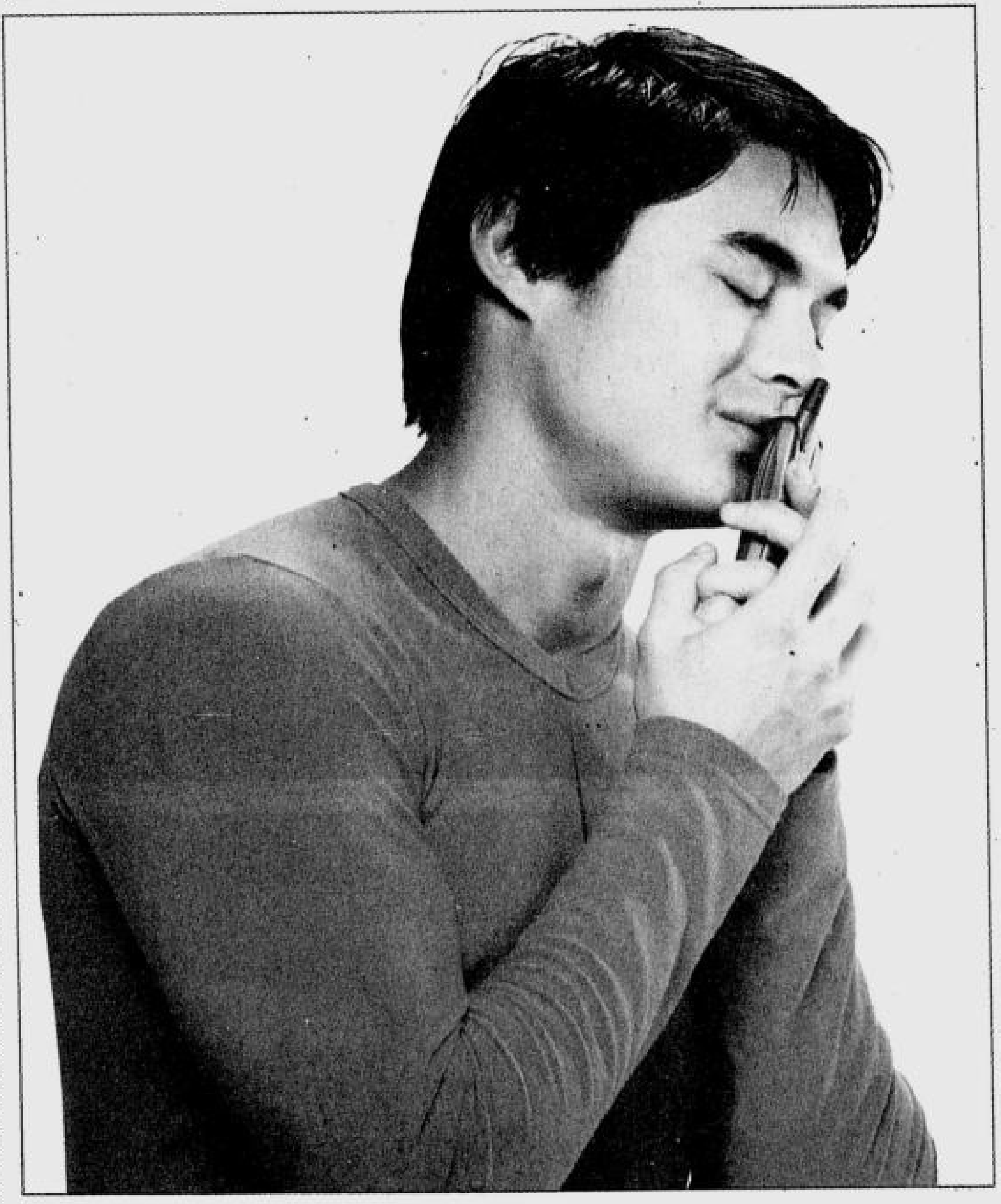

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SATURDAY

WATTS. Hollywood's next big thing.

New film choices for Naomi Watts

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Breakthrough actress, star of tomorrow. Naomi Watts has spent much of the last year accepting awards as Hollywood's next big thing after her persona-shifting role in David Lynch's "Mulholland Drive."

Sudden attention

The 34-year-old Watts finds the sudden attention wryly amusing after more than a decade of steady but obscure work in movies and television.

The actress has been on the periphery of stardom for so long that Laurie MacDonald, a producer on her new movie "The Ring," joked at the film's October premiere that Watts is the industry's longest-reigning new discovery.

Last December, the National Board of Review picked Watts as breakthrough actress of 2001. A month later, the National Society of Film Critics named her best actress for "Mulholland Drive." In March, Watts was honored as female star of tomorrow at ShoWest, an annual convention of theater owners.

The Hollywood Film Festival, where "The Ring" premiered, handed Watts her latest prize, its breakthrough acting award.

Watts lets out a hearty laugh when asked if she feels like a poster person for Hollywood perseverance.

Accolades

"I've had all those beautiful accolades and acknowledgments, star of tomorrow, breakthrough performer. It was incredibly exciting, and it still is," Watts said in an interview.

"But it's so ironic, because I've been working for so long. I have no reason to complain, and I'm really flattered. But 'breaking through?' I feel like I snuck through. Like, 'Hey, I'm on the list.'"

"The Ring" marks her first lead role in a big studio movie. A remake of a 1998 Japanese horror sensation, "The Ring" stars Watts as a reporter pursuing a story about a mysterious videotape whose viewers die horribly a week later.

Her performance in "Mulholland Drive" helped Watts land the role, along with juicy parts in a string of upcoming films.

"The surprise is that it's taken us in Hollywood this long to see what she always has been," said Walter F. Parkes, a producer on "The Ring." "What's so exciting about Naomi is having someone who brings the freshness of a new discovery or ingenue with the kind of depth of a seasoned actress. To have those two qualities in one package is a great thing."

Small part

Born in England, Watts moved at 14 with her family to Australia, where she began studying acting. Her first significant role was a small part in 1991's "Flirting," which starred her close friend Nicole Kidman.

Her other early films included "Wide Sargasso Sea," "Gross Misconduct," "Tank Girl" and "Dangerous Beauty." But Watts, who moved to Los Angeles in the mid-1990s, remained a virtual unknown outside Hollywood circles.

Watts thought her day had finally come in early 1999, when she shot the pilot for "Mulholland Drive," "Twin Peaks" creator Lynch's new TV series.

Set in Hollywood, "Mulholland Drive" featured Watts as a naive, fresh-faced starlet wannabe who falls into a serpentine mystery adventure with a gorgeous amnesiac (Laura Elena Harring).

After assurances that the show would be a hit, Watts was crushed when networks passed on "Mulholland Drive." Lynch eventually revived it as a theatrical film, adding new scenes that gave Watts a chance to show her stuff as her character transforms from innocence to

NEW FILM / E8

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Broadcast journalist Maria Ressa finds success abroad

RESSA. Provided the exclusive report that the first-known videotapes of an Al Qaeda training camp in Indonesia had been found.

By Nestor U. Torre

WE first met Maria Ressa when she was working with Cheche Lazaro's "The Probe Team." We found her different from many young people getting their start in broadcast journalism.

Long on looks

Most of them want to end up as on-camera talents, and thus are long on looks—but unfortunately short on intelligence, ability to analyze, genuine interest in "history in the making," and a strong work ethic.

Maria struck us as more astute, focused and a harder worker than most of her contemporaries. We had little doubt that she would do well in her chosen field.

As she moved up in local broadcast journalism, however, we were dismayed to hear some industry insiders criticizing her for what they perceived to be her lack of "on-camera charisma."

Criticism

To our mind, this criticism was neither here nor there. We viewed documentaries, public-affairs magazine shows and newscasts not because their anchors or hosts looked like Dawn Zulueta and Aga Muhlach, but because they did their jobs well.

Unfortunately, the superficial "looks" factor prevails in these parts, so we have any number of gorgeous TV news people who don't really do public-affairs reportage or analysis well.

This helps account for the shallow, shrill and blood-and-thunder character of much of local broadcast journalism that is all the more reprehensible because it encourages the same shallowness and shrillness in viewers' perception of current events.

Perfect squelch

But it turned out that Maria had the perfect squelch for her detractors: she found success in broadcast journalism on the international scene. So there!

Maria Ressa is now the CNN network's Jakarta bureau chief—and the posting has been an unexpected boon to her career, because Indonesia has emerged as one of the most newsworthy places on the globe these past few years.

This has resulted in Maria's giving frequent reports on breaking and developing news on CNN, about events not just in Indonesia, but also in China, South Korea, and India.

As her CNN profile states, Ressa was the network's lead reporter on three changes of government in Southeast Asia: in Indonesia in 1998, in East Timor in 1999, and in the Philippines in 2001.

Rampage

Asked to cite an unforgettable experience since joining CNN, Ressa shares: "Driving 10 hours across militia-controlled territory in West Timor in order to be the first TV news team to return to East Timor shortly after its Aug. 30 vote for independence, and the militia's rampage which sent diplomats, residents and journalists fleeing.

"We arrived in a vastly different place: No food, no electricity, no running water. That was six days before the multinational troops arrived."

Lethal car bomb

Maria's latest achievement: In Oct. 2002, just days after a lethal car bomb killed almost 200 people in Bali, she provided the exclusive report that the first-known videotapes of an Al Qaeda training camp in Indonesia had been found, the existence of which had never been publicly acknowledged by Indonesian officials.

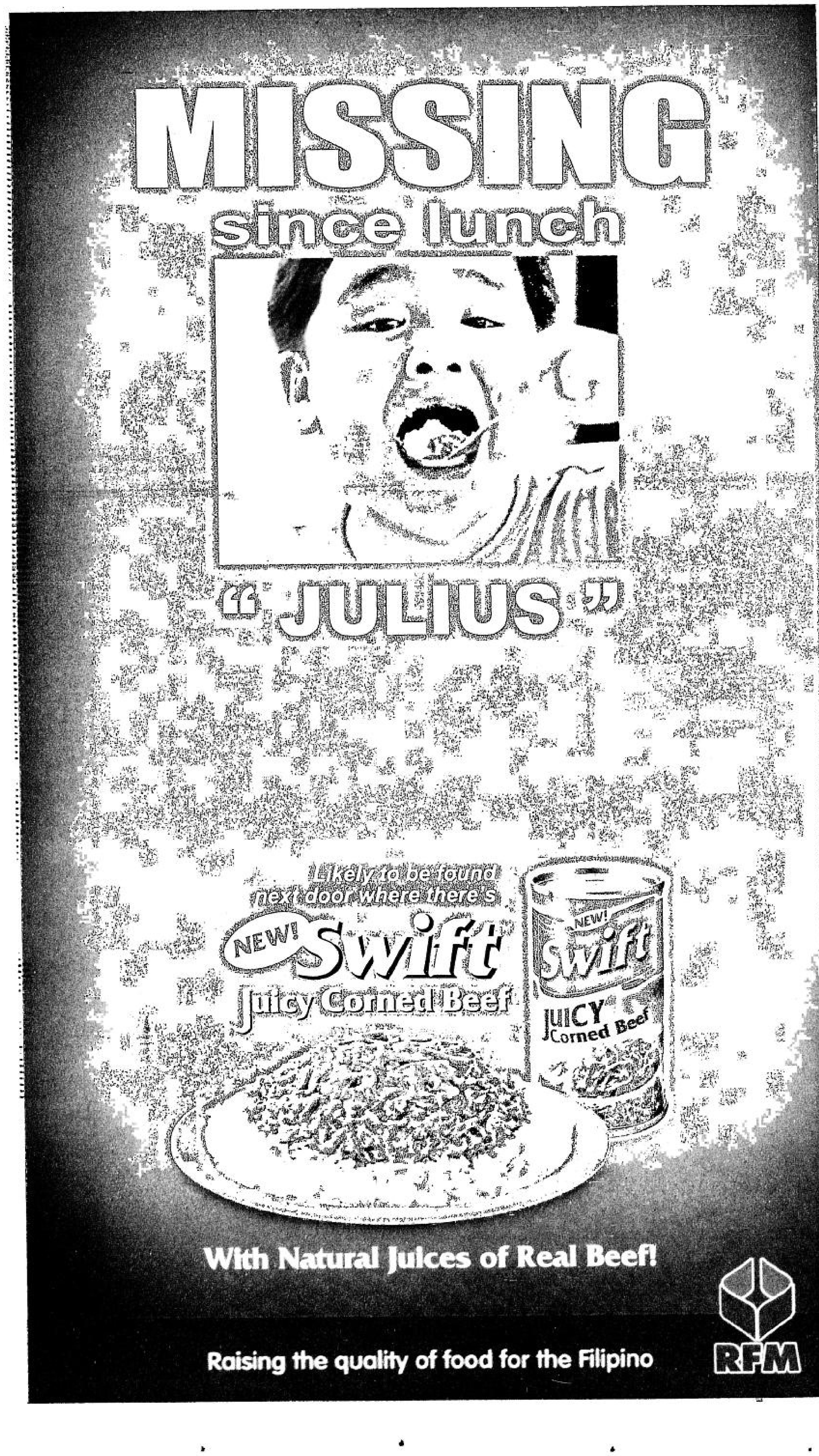
She also recently presented a half-hour special analyzing the complex web of terrorist activities that is being uncovered in Asia, and revealing more exclusive intelligence information on the structure of Al Qaeda in the region.

Short shrift

There's the operative word, *analyze*, which has been given short-shrift by many local broadcast journalists, who stop short at mere reportage, subjective bias and shallow opinionating.

We trust that the standards set by professionals like Maria Ressa will prompt them to change their lazy and self-serving ways.

It's great that a Filipino is doing good work internationally, but equally important is the need for other professionals to do similarly competent work here.



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SPECIAL agent Alex Scott (Owen Wilson, left) and Kelly Robinson (Eddie Murphy) escape on a car carrier while being pursued by thugs. AP

'I Spy' banks too much on its stars

By David Germain

NEW YORK—If the '60s TV show "I Spy" helped formulate the mismatched-buddy genre of action comedies, the movie version starring Eddie Murphy and Owen Wilson slaughters it.

"I Spy" manhandles what should have been a decent pairing of comic actors with contrasting but complementary styles.

Tired scenario

It takes really clever action and wily exchanges to score nowadays with this whole tired scenario of opposites in arms. But it feels as though director Betty Thomas and company didn't even try, figuring they already had the goods with a couple of stars and a recognizable brand name, spiced up with explosions, feeble gunplay and poorly staged stunts.

On television, "I Spy" broke ground for teaming black and white leads, Bill Cosby as agent Alexander Scott and Robert Culp as his civilian partner, tennis player Kelly Robinson. The show also had a brain and a heart, and the heroes made for a genuinely interesting contrast.

Murphy and Wilson, though, are mismatched, insufferable in their boorish bickering and unamusing incompetence.

Early on, it's annoying that the dialogue becomes indecipherable amid the stars' shrill, simultaneous babble. Later, it's an elixir, saving viewers the trouble of even attempting to sort out the nonsense they're shouting.

Four screenwriters

The most bewildering fact is that it took four credited screenwriters, two also sharing story credit, along with Murphy's esteemed knack for ad-libbing to deliver a movie's worth of chatter whose laughs can be counted on one hand.

Wilson takes on the equivalent of Cosby's character, playing US agent Alex Scott, as-

I SPY/E3

Sophia Loren doesn't like being labeled a film star

TORONTO—Italian actress Sophia Loren, promoting her 100th film directed by her son Edoardo Ponti, shuns being called a star, saying she's too grounded and thinks the profession is more serious than that.

"I never believed in the star system anyway . . . To become a star is something that's away from me," Loren, who has turned 68, said.

Feet on the ground

"I always like to be with my feet on the ground and do the job as I have to do it," she said, adding, "It's a great job. It's a very, very serious profession and so to be called a star, I don't like it."

For the record, the two-time Oscar winner whose career spans five decades wants to be called just an actress.

Loren, in her latest role, plays the aspiring artist Olivia in the film "Between Strangers," also starring Gerard Depardieu and Mira Sorvino.

Brilliant

Asked what it's like working with the French actor, Loren joked, "He's a monster—in a good way. He's brilliant. He's full of energy. He really knows what he's doing all the time and whatever he has to do, he does it in an excellent way.

"We had a wonderful time together," she added. *AFP*

In her latest role, she plays an aspiring actress in her son Edoardo Ponti's film, which also stars Gerard Depardieu

LOREN. "Between Strangers" is her 100th movie.

'Harlem Song' raises money to stay open

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—"Harlem Song" will keep on singing until the end of the year.

The 90-minute musical revue playing at the Apollo Theater has raised the necessary $300,000 to run through Dec. 31, Carol Fineman, a spokeswoman for the show, said Friday.

Closing notices

The $4 million production, directed by George C. Wolfe, had posted closing notices several times in the past few weeks, but took them down at the end of each week as business improved.

"We have enough money to continue," Fineman said, adding that funds had been raised after talks between lead producer John Schreiber and a variety of donors and organizations.

"Harlem Song" opened last August to mixed reviews and never caught on at the box office. The show, a history of Harlem in song and dance, has lost money for much of its three-month run.

Magnet

The musical was planned as the magnet to attract tourists and local audiences to the historic theater, located on Harlem's main thoroughfare—125th Street—as well as to businesses in the area.

Fineman said Dec. 31 was the original closing date, but the plan is to bring "Harlem Song" back each year as a holiday attraction, much like the Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall in midtown Manhattan. *AP*

'I Spy' . . .

From page E2

signed to retrieve a stolen stealth bomber before Budapest arms dealer Arnold Gundars (Malcolm McDowell) can peddle it to terrorists who want to nuke Washington, D.C.

Conveniently, middleweight boxing champ Kelly Robinson (Murphy) is heading to Budapest to defend his title and happens to be on Gundars' guest list for a pre-fight bash. Undercover as Kelly's trainer, Alex gains access to Gundars' pad to try to track down the missing plane.

From then on, the only need-to-know details are that mayhem—scads of dreary and muddled mayhem—follow Kelly and Alex's every move. The unimaginative action is further cheapened by clumsy editing; the movie's static shots of picturesque Budapest make for better viewing.

Lame subplots

The filmmakers toss in a couple of lame subplots: Blustering Kelly helping romantically inept Alex to seduce bombshell fellow agent Rachel (Famke Janssen); and Alex's espionage envy of super-spy Carlos (Gary Cole, badly made up as a Latino, with coal-black hair that looks as if it were dyed with shoe polish).

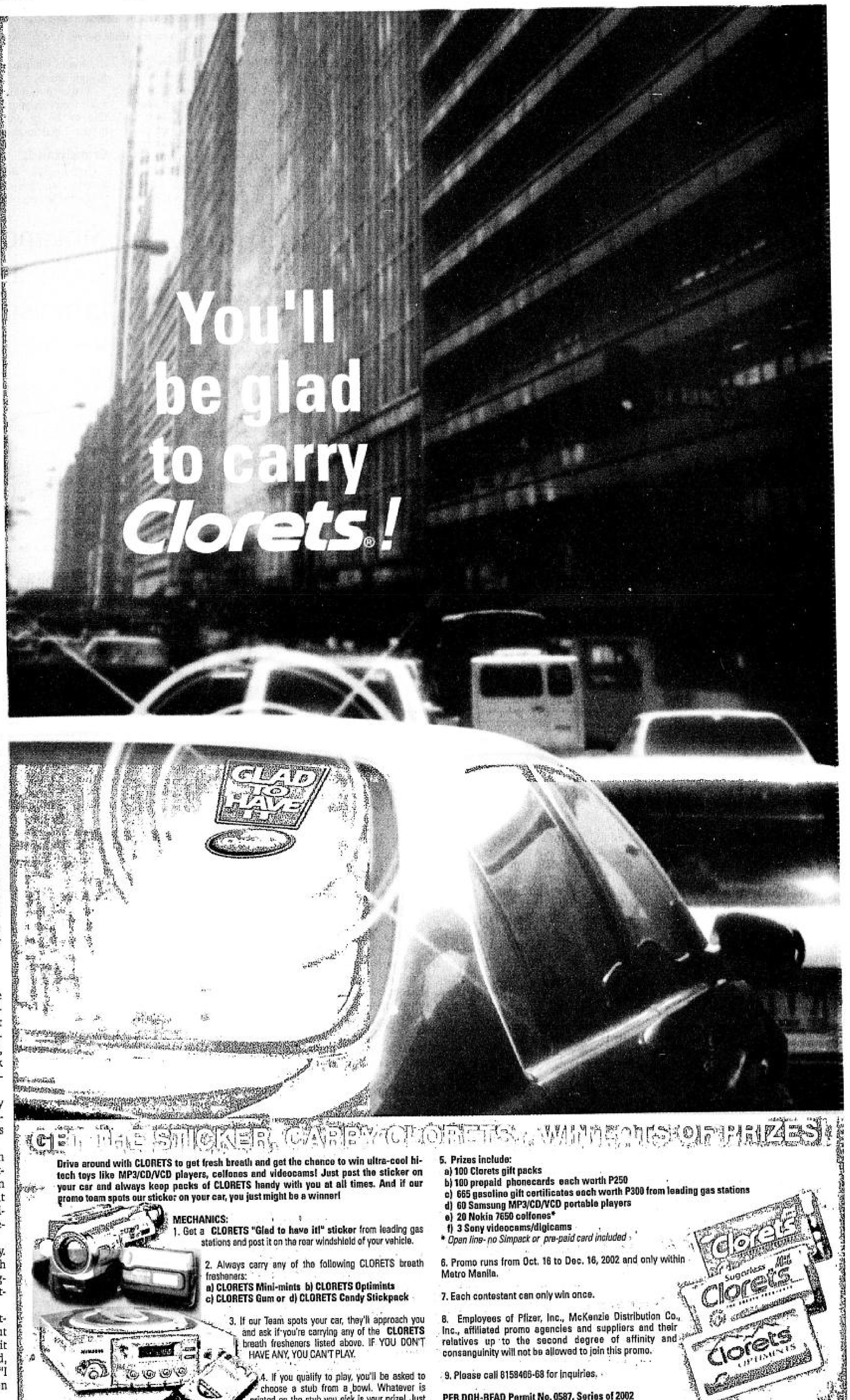
When he edges toward raunchy, Murphy borders on funny. But unlike his R-rated "Beverly Hills Cop" and "48 Hrs." personae, he's crippled here by a PG-13 rating.

Wilson's laid-back style worked nicely in "Shanghai Noon," where he was passive partner to Jackie Chan. As instigator rather than sidekick in "I Spy," Wilson's comic detachment clashes with his character's take-charge attitude, pretty much killing his deer-in-the-headlights routine.

Janssen has little more to do than look sly. McDowell, who can play evil and odious with the best of them (check out this year's "Gangster No. 1"), is wasted in "I Spy," a hushed little villain without a speck of menace.

The advertising blitz for "I Spy" will attract huge crowds on opening weekend. But if you spy a sequel creeping your way, stab it with a pitchfork and bury it in the backyard, then celebrate by sampling the original "I Spy," whose three-season run is available on DVD.

"I Spy," from Sony's Columbia Pictures, runs 96 minutes. One and a half stars out of four. *AP*



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Queen Elizabeth II joins stars at premiere of new Bond film

By Thomas Wagner

LONDON—The world premiere of the 20th James Bond film lit up central London on Monday night, with two firsts at such events: Queen Elizabeth II joined the superstars, and the venue was Royal Albert Hall.

THE QUEEN is greeted by Pierce Brosnan as she arrives for the world premiere of the new James Bond film "Die Another Day." AFP

Cameo role

Large crowds gathered outside the London landmark to watch the "Die Another Day" actors show up, including Pierce Brosnan, the suave 007; his new lady, Oscar winner Halle Berry; and Madonna, who sings the movie's theme tune and plays the cameo role of fencing instructor Verity.

The queen and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, joined the flashy event because the movie was chosen as the Royal Film Performance to aid the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund.

Introduced to Brosnan, the queen said: "So you're the modern James Bond are you? I've met the other three downstairs."

She was referring to George Lazenby, Timothy Dalton and Sir Roger Moore. Sir Sean Connery, the very first of the Bonds, was the only one who didn't show up.

Fourth outing

Brosnan, 49—on his fourth outing as the secret agent—said he loves playing the part. "He's confident, he has style, he has a license to kill, and he has a wonderful way with women. From a male perspective you can't beat him," he said.

A bevy of former Bond girls also attended the premiere, including Maud Adams and Fiona Fullerton.

Berry, wearing a black-and-white Oscar de la Renta gown, said she was delighted to play Bond's latest girl, Jinx. But she also noted that unlike her predecessors, Jinx is a secret agent herself and more than a match for Brosnan's 007.

"Jinx is Bond's equal," she said. "Say what you want about Bond girls, and I know people do criticize them, but the women in these films have a great allure and people want to see them."

Madonna, who arrived with her husband Guy Ritchie, was dressed conservatively in a knee-length black cocktail dress and took the time to make sure she knew how to greet the queen.

BROSNAN poses with co-star Halle Berry. REUTERS

Madonna practiced her curtsey in front of co-star John Cleese, and afterward said: "The queen asked me about Bond. I have never met her before, but surprisingly I wasn't nervous."

Royal Albert Hall was transformed into a glittering ice palace for the evening, similar to the lair of the latest Bond villain, Gustav Graves, played by Toby Stephens, the son of veteran actress Dame Maggie Smith.

"I've been watching Bond films since I was six years old, so getting to be in one was quite bizarre," said Stephens.

Grandstands

Grandstands were set up around the red-carpeted entrance so the large crowds of fans could watch the stars arrive. People standing further away could watch the event unfold on large, stadium-style movie screens.

Other stars at the premiere included Rosamund Pike, the 22-year-old Oxford University graduate who plays Miranda Frost; and Richard Kiel, who portrays one of 007's most famous enemies, Jaws.

"Die Another Day" is a milestone for Bond, being the 20th film in the series and marking the franchise's 40th anniversary.

Producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli said they were honored that it had been chosen as the annual Royal Film Performance.

"James Bond is the epitome of all things British," they said in a statement. "We have enjoyed making the films in England and having the opportunity to work with such brilliant technicians and artists.

"We are incredibly proud that this event will be held at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of such a worthy benefit for the British film community."

Recent films selected for the royal performance include "Star Wars: Episode 1—the Phantom Menace," and "The Grinch."

"Die Another Day," the first Bond film chosen for the honor, was released in Britain last Wednesday. *AP*

Vic Sotto plays superhero in 'Lastikman'

By Edmund L. Sicam

THIS year's Metro filmfest is turning out to be a festival of fantasy movies with entries like "Agimat" starring Bong Revilla, "Spirit Warriors II" starring the Streetboys, "Alamat" with Fernando Poe Jr. and "Lastikman" with Vic Sotto.

Vic plays a man with superpowers (his body is like plastic that can be stretched any which way), and of course, everything that comes with it—an arch enemy, an alter ego, a leading lady, and the special effects that you *must* have in a movie like this. It is based on a comics character created by Nars Ravelo.

SOTTO (left) with co stars including Donita Rose and Michael V.

Vic admits that it's a difficult movie to do. Especially the post-production, when all the effects come in. Jeffrey Quizon plays his arch enemy.

"We start out as friends. I'm a professor, *siya ang* favorite student *ko. Naging* close *kami.* But something happens in his (Jeffrey's) life, so *sumama siya,*" he explains.

Flying

Jeffrey gets to fly in this movie. In the great tradition of Filipino superheroes, does he swallow a pebble like Darna or utter anything to transform himself? *"Nasa utak lang.* What's Lastikman's weakness? "Ice—*basta malamig.*"

Donita Rose plays his love interest. "Childhood classmate *ko na* sweetheart *na hindi natuloy.*" There's a flashback portion, back to when they're 16 years old. Oyo Boy plays Vic at 16, and Anne Curtis plays Donita. Talk about perfect casting!

How does Vic feel after winning as "Best Emcee" at the Star Awards recently? "I've been a host for quite sometime already. *Matagal ko nang inaasam-asam yun.*"

To think that Vic didn't really intend on becoming a noontime host this long: "Personally I gave myself 15 years on noontime. *Dapat* after 15 years, *magre*-retire *na ako. Nakakapagod, e, araw-araw. Dumating na ang* 20 years, enjoy *pa rin ako. Andito pa rin ako. Sabi ko kay pareng* Joey, *sana kung makaabot tayo ng* 25 years, *pahinga na tayo."*

Folk singer

Vic started out as a folk singer, but blames the turn in his career on his friendship with Joey de Leon. *"Mula nung maging kabarkada ko si* Joey, *nag*-deteriorate *yung utak ko. Disenteng tao ako noon,"* he jokes.

He was more into music, not show business or broadcasting. He was writing songs, which was his first love since he was small. But he hasn't written any songs lately.

"Bakit Ba Ganyan" is always credited to him, but he says that was a contest winner on "Eat Bulaga" for a love song writing contest for Valentine's day.

Is he really a lady killer? Vic protests, *"Hindi totoo yun. Di pa naman ako nakapatay ng babae."* Why do women fall for him? *"Dun nga ako nagtataka, e."*

Okay, what's his technique? "*Wala.* I'm just myself. *Walang sikreto, walang* formula. *Basta heto ako.* What you see is what you get. You'll have to take me for what I am."

Okay, how about the other way round: What makes him fall for a woman? "It's more the… mystery. *Yung* magic. *Simpleng* sexy, *pwede na."* What makes a woman sexy? "Definitely not the physical. It's more the attitude."

Even Dina Bonnevie, his ex wife can't seem to put her finger on why she got attracted to him. Says Vic, *"E kung siya nga hindi masagot… Basta, eto ako."*

Singapore filmmaker walks a fine line between criticism and dissent

By Alexa Olesen

SINGAPORE—Jack Neo, Singapore's "King of Films," grabs a microphone, storms on stage and tells his rehearsing actors, "No! It's got to be snappier."

Gift

They don't quiver or shake. Neo tells them what they're doing wrong without making them feel bad about it, a gift he is becoming famous for in this tiny nation of four million.

Neo, 42, has been responsible for all three of Singapore's top grossing locally made films, hitting gold each time with his mix of slapstick comedy, sly social critique and lashings of saccharine dialogue that tug at the heartstrings.

Neo has mischievously poked fun at Singapore's government in his films. He seems to get more daring with each production but he has also ironically emerged as the government's—partially—unwitting poster boy for its new creativity campaign.

The Southeast Asian island nation has been aggressively pushing the arts and entertainment for the first time since independence 37 years ago. A new S$600 million ($325 million) performing arts center, called the Esplanade Theaters on the Bay, opened with much fanfare in October.

Creative arts

The government also hopes that the creative arts will inspire a more independent streak for its often complacent citizenry, undoing years of overwhelming government control in almost all walks of life.

Neo was cited as a role model by Singapore's prime minister during a recent National Day speech as the leader tried to encourage Singaporeans to be more creative and entrepreneurial.

"Why not be like Jack Neo?" asked Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of his constituents.

"I felt great about that," said Neo about Goh's speech.

"It was a very special encouragement not just for me but for all Singaporeans. Having the government appreciate what you do is important," he said in an interview on Friday last week.

But for all his jibes, Neo is not a radical and knows very well when to pull in the reins of his edgy comedy—not surprising since his films are bankrolled by Raintree Productions, a subsidiary of Mediacorp, Singapore's government-owned broadcaster and newspaper publisher.

"I did not want to create problems or put the government in a bad light," he said, of his films which have lampooned Singapore's exam-oriented education system, its mandatory pension fund, and its controlling paternalistic style of governance.

Constructive

But Neo insists he is constructive, never malicious, and he firmly believes in Singapore's core values of nation, community and society before self.

Neo spent eight years working as a drama troupe director for the Singapore Armed Forces, writing skits that he said were 80 percent entertainment and 20 percent propaganda.

The mini-dramas usually focused on the government's latest behavior modification campaign, such as drives urging people to speak good Mandarin, flush public toilets or turn off their mobile phones during movies.

Neo's latest offerings continue to offer moral medicine with a large dose of comic sweetener.

His satire called "I Not Stupid," which garnered S$3.3 million ($1.94 million) earlier this year, focused on three elementary school kids who triumphantly stand up to their domineering parents and begin to make tough decisions for themselves.

It was clearly a clarion call to Singapore's apathetic citizenry to grow up and speak up for a change.

"Don't follow blindly, this is the most important message," of the film Neo said, "The government also wants this now. This is the kind of spirit we want for Singaporeans." *AP*

NEO, right, speaks with the cast of his weekly variety show "Sweet and Sour Talk." AP

'Bloody Sunday' looks for peace amid conflict

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—For many in the United States, "Sunday Bloody Sunday" is a catchy pop tune by Irish rockers U2, but if a new movie "Bloody Sunday" captures the public eye, people may just learn what the song's lyrics mean.

Civil rights march

The movie recounts events of Jan. 30, 1972, when 13 Irish civilians were killed by British paratroopers during a civil rights march in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Another person died later, bringing the final toll to 14.

While it recounts past events, the story of "Bloody Sunday" has as much relevance today with conflicts in the Middle East, the US-led war on terrorism and strife around the world.

"It's like having a ringside seat to the way the world is today," the film's British director Paul Greengrass told Reuters in an interview.

A film drama told in documentary style, it shared the World Cinema award at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival in the United States, shared best film honors at this year's Berlin Film Festival and prompted a standing ovation at a screening in Londonderry.

30th anniversary

Greengrass told Reuters he would probably never have another experience like the Londonderry show, which was held two weeks before the 30th anniversary of the day known as Bloody Sunday.

"There was no anger, no bitterness, no cause for vengeance, just a quiet dignity and a feeling that at last, a necessary story had been told," said Greengrass. "That, in the end, is what this film is about. It's about reconciliation." The British and Irish are still trying to establish exactly what happened on Bloody Sunday. An original investigation exonerated the British Army, but in 1998 Prime Minister Tony Blair ordered a new inquiry that is now underway.

What is known is that the shootings helped to usher in nearly 25 years of strife on the streets of Northern Ireland and the rise of the Irish Republican Army. At least 3,600 people died in the Northern Ireland conflict until the 1998 US-brokered Good Friday Agreement.

The movie follows the day's events by focusing on three characters: Ivan Cooper (played by James Nesbitt), a civil rights leader who helped organize the march; Robert Ford (Tim Pigott-Smith), the British officer who oversaw the military that day; and Gerard Donaghy (Declan Duddy) a 17-year-old Catholic marcher with a Protestant girlfriend.

Peaceful demonstration

It starts on the morning of the march with both Cooper and Ford organizing their groups. Cooper and the marchers want a peaceful demonstration patterned after the US Civil Rights movement led by Martin Luther King Jr.

But the British are determined to stop the march and arrest people they deem are troublemakers. They want 500 arrests, and Ford's job is to see his men carry out their task.

Donaghy is torn by his own loyalties to family and friends and finds himself caught in events beyond anyone's control.

"Bloody Sunday" leaves open the question of who fired the first shot. Greengrass described the first shot "irrelevant, because nothing justifies what followed." *Reuters*

Bruce Willis to be taken 'Hostage'

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood tough guy Bruce Willis has signed up to star as a small town police chief negotiating to free mob prisoners in a new action film called "Hostage," producers said Wednesday.

The "Die Hard" star will make the movie for Revolution Studios, while Willis and will also produce the picture along with Arnold Rifkin, the studio said.

Everyman

"There isn't a better combination than Bruce Willis starring in the story of an everyman who must rise to the occasion to save others," said studio boss Todd Garner.

"We are looking forward to working with Arnold and Bruce again after a great experience on 'Tears of the Sun,'" Willis' last film for Revolution which is currently in post production.

"Hostage," written by Robert Crais on the basis of his own novel of the same name, marks the seventh time 47-year-old Willis has filmed for Revolution Studios since they first teamed up for "Die Hard 2" in 1990. *AFP*

WILLIS. New action film.

Filmmakers draw on Soviet navy historian's expertise

By Jerry Harkavy

HIRAM, Maine—Peter Huchthausen had planned to write a comprehensive history of the Soviet navy during the Cold War, but Hollywood kept interrupting with requests to tap his wealth of knowledge about Soviet submarines.

The retired Navy captain and former US naval attache in Moscow has no complaints.

Instead of writing a tome that might appeal to a limited audience of naval history buffs, Huchthausen now has two books that recount deadly nuclear submarine accidents and benefit from movie tie-ins: "K-19: The Widowmaker" and "Hostile Waters."

Third book

His third book about Soviet submarines, a little-known drama that played out during the Cuban missile crisis 40 years ago and in which he was personally involved, is the recently published "October Fury."

"I'm just fortunate," Huchthausen said of the movie deals that propelled his writing career forward. "Every dog has his day and I'm riding high right now."

"October Fury" tells the little-known story of four diesel submarines that Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev dispatched to Cuba in 1962 to scope out a potential base for seven nuclear-powered subs armed with medium-range ballistic missiles.

Land-based missiles

By the time the four submarines approached the Caribbean, the discovery that the Soviets were placing land-based missiles in Cuba triggered an international crisis and a US blockade of the island.

Huchthausen was stationed on the destroyer USS Blandy, putting him in an ideal position to watch the submarine drama unfold.

"I was a boot ensign right out of the Naval Academy and didn't know what was going on," he recalled. "I just happened to be on the anti-submarine warfare team, repeating commands between sonar communications and the captain. So I had to be next to the captain throughout this whole thing and that's how I saw it all happen."

"October Fury" details how the Blandy, along with other destroyers and aircraft, located the four Soviet submarines and forced them to surface.

The submarine encounters were kept secret until a meeting of US and Russian leaders in 1994. Noting that the subs were armed with nuclear-tipped torpedoes, Huchthausen said that even today few people realize that those incidents could have triggered nuclear war.

Documentary

The History Channel plans a documentary based on the new book, and Huchthausen hopes it will inspire yet another submarine movie.

"K-19," a companion to the hit summer film of the same name, features on its cover a scowling Harrison Ford, who portrays the Soviet submarine commander whose memoirs are woven into Huchthausen's text.

The book and movie focus on a near-meltdown in a reactor aboard a submarine that was hastily deployed in the North Atlantic in 1961, despite concerns about shoddy construction. It was the first Soviet sub built to carry ballistic missiles.

Without flinching, crew members entered the reactor compartment and rigged a makeshift cooling system, knowing that deadly radiation exposure awaited them.

The author's first experience with the movie industry came five years ago when HBO Films approached him for help with "Hostile Waters," which recounts the 1986 explosion and sinking of a Soviet ballistic missile sub off Bermuda. It, too, is a tale of personal heroism.

Huchthausen's book about the accident coincided with the release of the film, which starred Rutger Hauer and Martin Sheen.

"K-19" and "Hostile Waters" focus on just two examples of what the author describes as a decades-long string of naval disasters that were kept under wraps until the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Veil of secrecy

The veil of secrecy was lifted while Huchthausen was stationed in Moscow. He developed friendships with Russians who came to him with heart-rending stories detailing their nuclear navy's hidden history of environmental degradation and flagrant disregard for crew safety.

"K-19" and "Hostile Waters" were originally envisioned as chapters in the Cold War history that Huchthausen decided to write after he retired from the Navy in 1990. But after National Geographic hired him as a consultant on the "K-19" movie and as author of its companion book, Huchthausen recognized the opportunity to present the history to a wider audience.

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Awaiting publication is a history of US military operations after Vietnam. And among the diverse projects Huchthausen is exploring is a Kenneth Roberts-type historical novel based on the life of 18th-century militia leader Joseph Frye, founder of Fryeburg and the figure for whom Frye Island was named. *AP*

HUCHTHAUSEN. His book, "K-19: The Widowmaker," was made into a film earlier this year. He has written another book, "October Fury," about Soviet submarines.

AP

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tubby

truth or dare

Full-figured models flaunted their best features at the TUBBY fashion show launch in Shangri-La Plaza.

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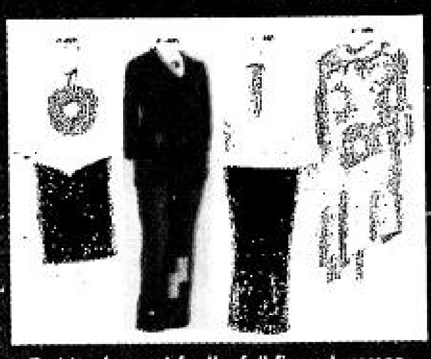
Attitude is everything

Big is beautiful: Tubby clients double as models



Fashion forecast for the full-figured woman

Image enhancer Olen Lim (left) chats with make-over models

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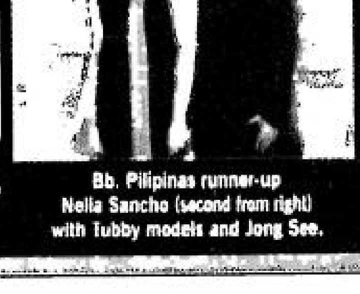
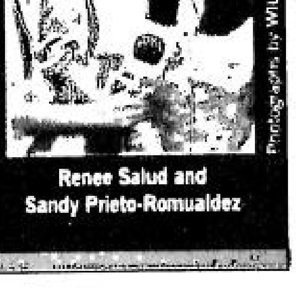
From left to right: Cong. Edwin Uy, Jong See, PDI's President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Tita See, Larry Lim, Zita Lim, special guests, and (far right) Maritess See-Lazaro

Jong See, Maritess See-Lazaro, Larry Lim, Mauro Malang Santos, and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez



Bb. Pilipinas runner-up Nelia Sancho (second from right) with Tubby models and Jong See.



Renee Salud and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

Photographs by WILLY SAW

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AP

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tubby

truth or dare

Full-figured models flaunted their best features at the TUBBY fashion show launch in Shangri-La Plaza.

By **Vera Enriquez-Isberto**

Step aside, Stick Girls: At TRUTH OR DARE, a fashion show launch for the plus-sized store TUBBY, full-figured women fearlessly striked poses and strutted their shapely stuff down the runway in outfits otherwise sported by their slimmer counterparts. No tent-like tops and oversized anything in this polished collection: wild,wild Western wear, vintage pieces and Wall Street apparel drew raves from an appreciative audience, as did a set of playful pastels and sexy evening ensembles. Guided by the TUBBY motto "to be every bit of woman as can be through clothes that look good and are comfortable to wear," creative think-tanks for the trendy boutique relaxed the rules of fashion normally assigned to big women: there were spaghetti-strapped and sleeveless numbers, clingy wrap around dresses displaying ample bossoms and derrieres, bell-bottom pants, layered tops, horizontal stripes, and colors ranging from cream and light to deep and subdued.

Set on the second level of the chic Shangri-La Plaza mall, TRUTH OR DARE saw Congressman Edwin Uy, painting master Mauro Malang Santos, Philippine Daily Inquirer President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, stylemaker Renee Salud, distinguished members of the media and other heavyweights in the fields of fashion, business and art mix and mingle minutes before the much-awaited event. Image enhancer Olen Lim got the ball rolling by interviewing three oversized women who underwent a fashion makeover, then offering the audience with practical dressing tips. Feminist and former Bb. Pilipinas runner-up Nelia Sancho plus other Tubby clientele proceeded to wow the crowds with their unmistakable attitude on the catwalk (cheers to choreographer and director Robbie Carmona!). Tubby brother-and-sister tandem Creative Director and Operations Manager Jong See and General Manager Maritess See-Lazaro then invited guests up to the fifth level for the official unveiling of its seventh outlet. Generous discounts plus cocktails galore capped an evening of bigwigs, big surprises, and big success!

Attitude is everything

Big is beautiful: Tubby clients double as models

Fashion forecast for the full-figured woman

Image enhancer Olen Lim (left) chats with make-over models

From left to right: Cong. Edwin Uy, Jong See, PDI's President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Tita See, Larry Lim, Zita Lim, special guests, and (far right) Maritess See-Lazaro

Jong See, Maritess See-Lazaro, Larry Lim, Mauro Malang Santos, and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

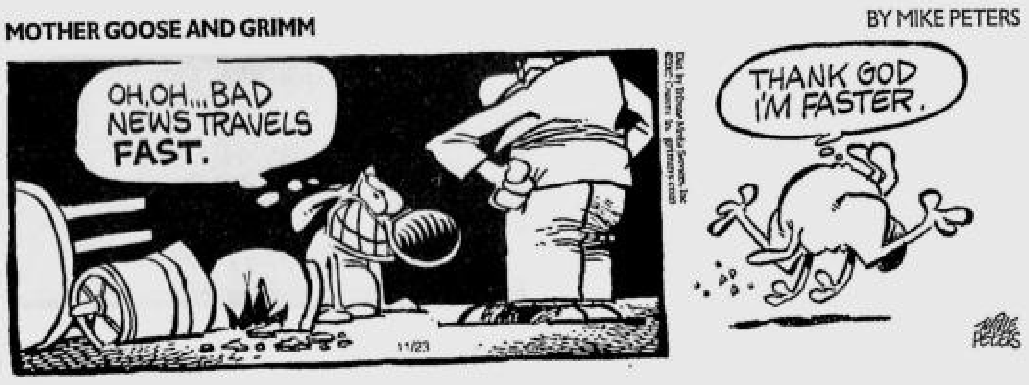
Bb. Pilipinas runner-up Nelia Sancho (second from right) with Tubby models and Jong See.

Renee Salud and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

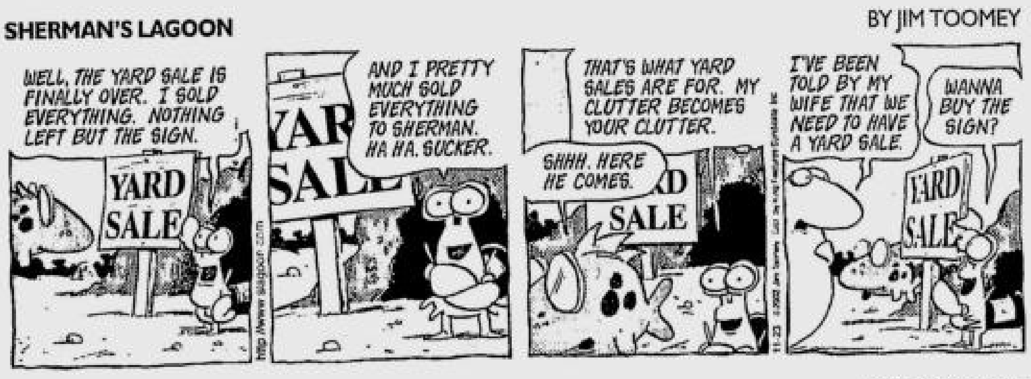
Photographs by WILLY SAW

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

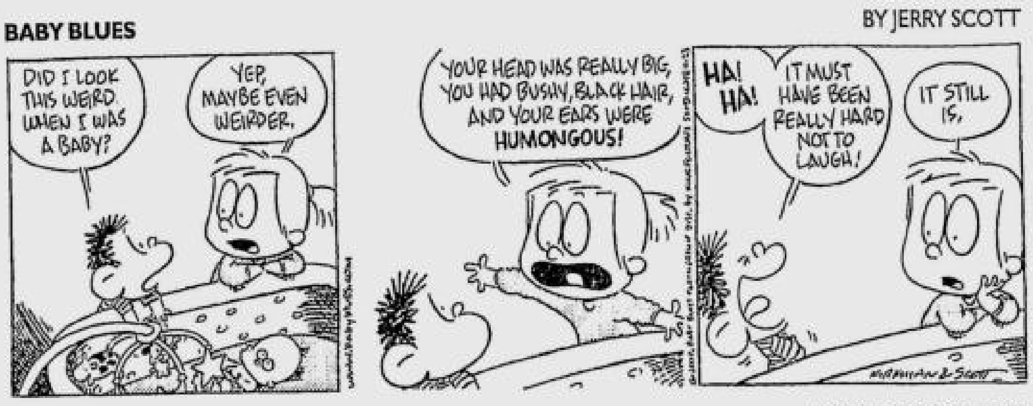
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


OH,OH...BAD NEWS TRAVELS FAST.
THANK GOD I'M FASTER.
11/23
MIKE PETERS

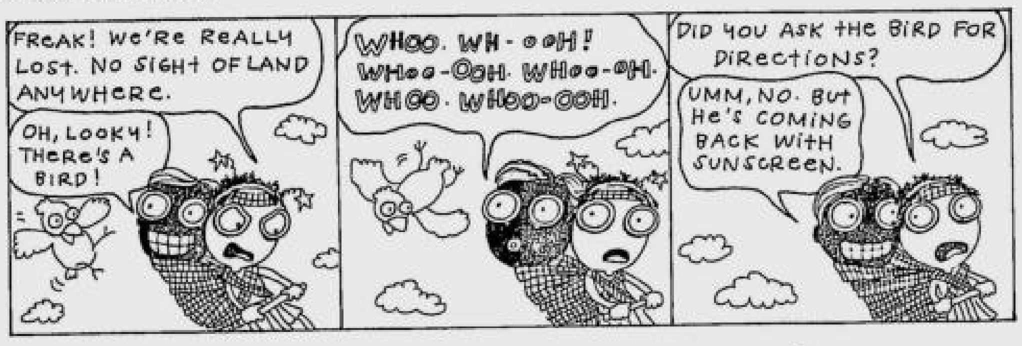
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


WELL, THE YARD SALE IS FINALLY OVER. I SOLD EVERYTHING. NOTHING LEFT BUT THE SIGN.
YARD SALE
AND I PRETTY MUCH SOLD EVERYTHING TO SHERMAN. HA HA. SUCKER.
THAT'S WHAT YARD SALES ARE FOR. MY CLUTTER BECOMES YOUR CLUTTER.
SHHH. HERE HE COMES.
I'VE BEEN TOLD BY MY WIFE THAT WE NEED TO HAVE A YARD SALE.
WANNA BUY THE SIGN?
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


DID I LOOK THIS WEIRD WHEN I WAS A BABY?
YEP, MAYBE EVEN WEIRDER.
YOUR HEAD WAS REALLY BIG, YOU HAD BUSHY, BLACK HAIR, AND YOUR EARS WERE HUMONGOUS!
HA! HA!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY HARD NOT TO LAUGH!
IT STILL IS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BYLYRA GARCELLANO


FREAK! WE'RE REALLY LOST. NO SIGHT OF LAND ANYWHERE.
OH, LOOKY! THERE'S A BIRD!
WHOO. WH-OOH! WHOO-OOH. WHOO-OH. WHOO. WHOO-OOH.
DID YOU ASK THE BIRD FOR DIRECTIONS?
UMM, NO. BUT HE'S COMING BACK WITH SUNSCREEN.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Landesberg, Boris Karloff, Maxwell Caulfield, Susan Anspach

Happy Birthday: You can have it all this year if you can separate your private life from your professional life. You will be highly creative and you mustn't waste your ideas and knowledge making someone else rich. Look out for yourself and take pride in all you can accomplish. Your numbers are 8, 13, 19, 27, 30, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A friendship may develop into a serious partnership. Although this is a time for change, stability can be yours if you plan your actions carefully.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your efforts into getting ahead financially. Then focus your attention on the home front. Don't hesitate to pamper your mate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make changes that will enhance your appearance as well as your reputation. Don't be afraid to try something unusual or daring. Be ready to entertain and be entertained.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be cautious while traveling. Keep your emotions contained and don't let your mood interfere with the task at hand. Then you can release some tension by taking part in an evening of entertainment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your generosity will lead to financial setbacks or difficulties with children. Be extremely careful with your money. Someone close to your heart may try to curtail your freedom. It's time to weigh the pros and cons of this connection.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The possibility of a romantic interlude through a work associate is present. Make sure you weigh things out carefully before you proceed. Don't damage your reputation with your decision.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems with weight will plague you if you are overindulgent. Plan social activities that involve physical exertion. Someone you love will get upset easily if you have been preoccupied.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Concentrate on behind-the-scenes activities. This is not the time for you to be front and center. You can make alterations in your living arrangements and make prosperous real estate deals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should be trying to meet and mingle with individuals who can provide you with information and mental stimulation. You need to shake things up, to learn new things, to meet new people and to challenge yourself.

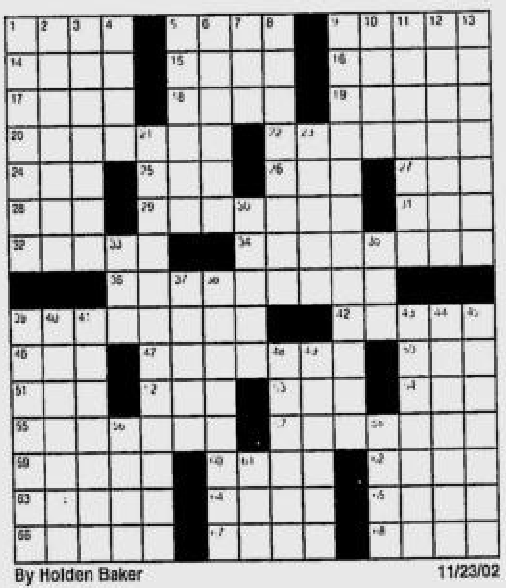
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you put in extra hours at work, financial paybacks will be yours. Discuss the work and money situation with your emotional partner so that he or she feels informed and not neglected.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can gain popularity with friends by voicing your opinions and ideas. Correct any bad habits that you may have picked up. Don't get involved in gossip that could hurt someone's feelings.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of any pending health problems to avoid an illness that could put you out of commission later. Concern yourself with family matters and taking care of correspondence.

Birthday Baby: You will be caring and charismatic. You will fight for the underdog and always make your beliefs known. You will be strong, steadfast and courageous. You will find yourself in the limelight throughout your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA

11/23/02

ACROSS
1 Hoover and Aswan
5 Coll. faculty member
9 Religion of the Koran
14 End of switch?
15 Whisker
16 Hangman's knot
17 "Livin' la __ Loca"
18 Make eyes at
19 Golf hazards
20 Hebrew prophet in Babylon
22 Sword cases
24 __ Gatos, CA
25 Hoop grp.
26 Geometric fig.
27 Yokohama OK
28 Que. neighbor
29 Some muscles
31 Mansion wing
32 Check recipient
34 Mad Hatter's gathering
36 Shopkeepers
39 Soft wool
42 Quick attacks
46 Poetic piece
47 Literary incongruities
50 Tonic's partner
51 Oct. follower
52 Small drink
53 Grand __ Opry
54 Scot's negative
55 Lubricated
57 Spent a stretch in stir
59 Utter boredom
60 Give off
62 The gamut
63 Melee
64 Complexion woe
65 Russo of "Get Shorty"
66 Test the fit of
67 Passes away
68 Bookie's numbers

DOWN
1 Bring to fulfillment
2 "Raising __"
3 Dirk Bogarde movie, "__ Blaise"
4 Moisten thoroughly
5 "Friends" character
6 Type of sleeve
7 Tanker's cargo
8 Paintings on plaster
9 Distributed at intervals
10 Common rail
11 One who abhors
12 Paving material
13 In an untidy manner
21 Play break
23 U.S. Grant's first name
30 "Village Wedding" painter
33 Biblical verb ending
35 Literary snippets
37 Condor's nest
38 Kind of gorgeous?
39 Clog up
40 Decorator
41 Three score and ten
43 Caught fire
44 Crystalline carbon
45 Reacts to a nasal irritant
48 Common antiseptic
49 Smart sets
56 Motive or mobile leader?
58 Poi source
61 Sprint rival

Friday's Puzzle Solved

R	O	S	E	■	A	R	A	B	S	■	S	M	U	G
A	M	E	X	■	L	O	G	E	S	■	L	I	T	E
C	R	E	E	■	U	B	O	L	T	■	A	C	T	A
K	I	M	M	Y	M	O	N	O	■	A	S	K	E	R
■	■	■	P	A	N	T	■	W	A	S	H	E	R	S
P	O	S	T	P	A	I	D	■	T	H	E	Y	■	■
A	M	U	■	S	E	S	E	■	P	E	R	K	E	D
R	A	Z	E	■	■	M	A	C	■	■	S	A	V	E
D	R	Y	R	O	T	■	L	O	S	T	■	D	E	L
■	■	K	A	Y	E	■	S	E	M	I	N	O	L	E
A	N	I	S	E	E	D	■	R	O	D	E	■	■	■
S	O	Y	U	Z	■	R	I	C	K	Y	S	H	A	W
S	O	A	R	■	E	Y	D	I	E	■	T	A	L	E
A	N	K	E	■	V	A	L	O	R	■	L	I	M	N
I	S	I	S	■	E	D	E	N	S	■	E	R	S	T

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11/23/02

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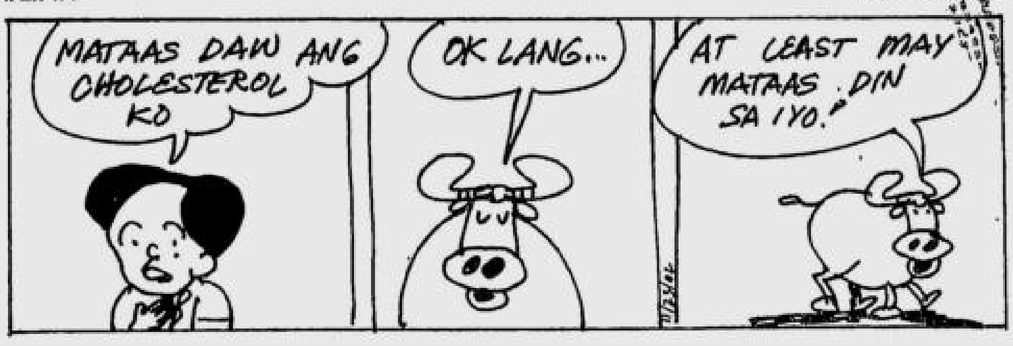
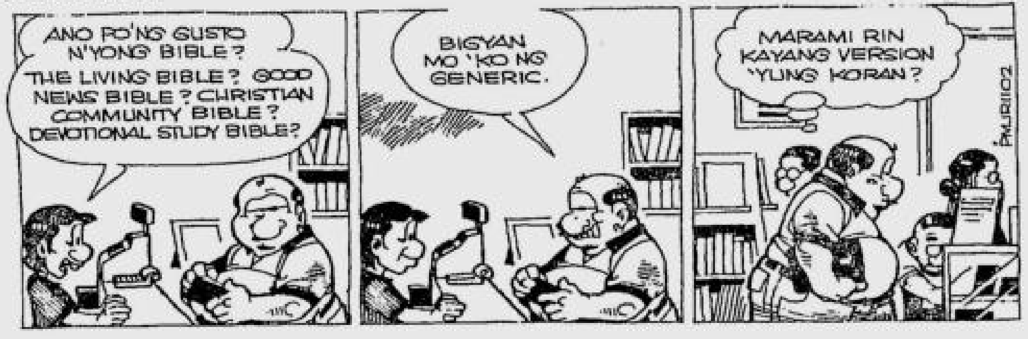
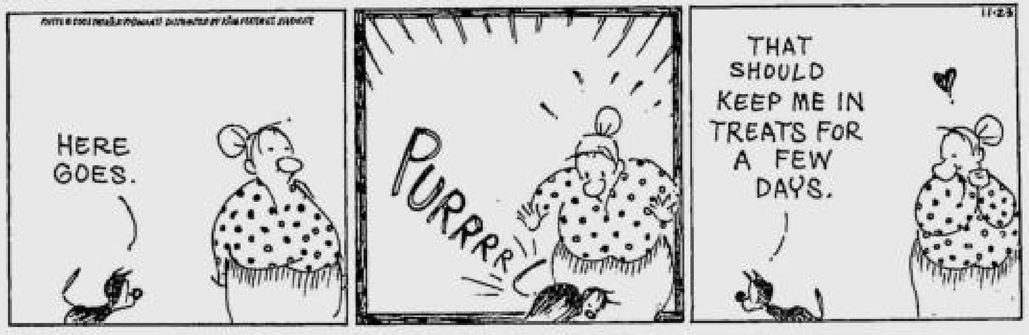
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MATAAS DAW ANG CHOLESTEROL KO
OK LANG...
AT LEAST MAY MATAAS DIN SA IYO.

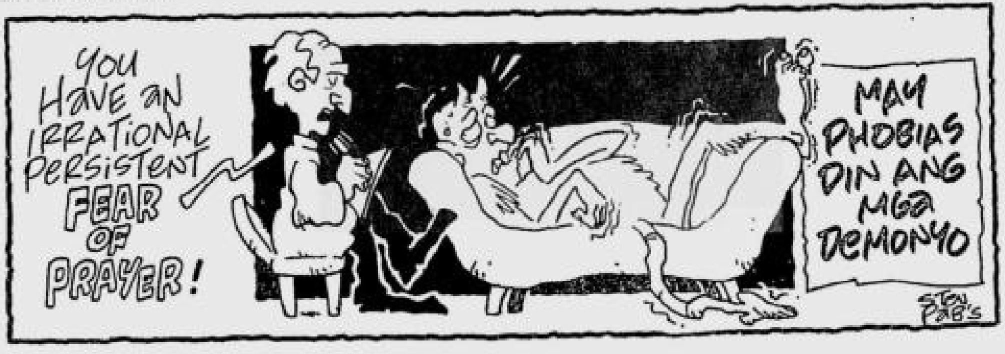
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO PO'NG GUSTO N'YONG BIBLE? THE LIVING BIBLE? GOOD NEWS BIBLE? CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BIBLE? DEVOTIONAL STUDY BIBLE?
BIGYAN MO 'KO NG GENERIC.
MARAMI RIN KAYANG VERSION 'YUNG KORAN?
PMJR1102

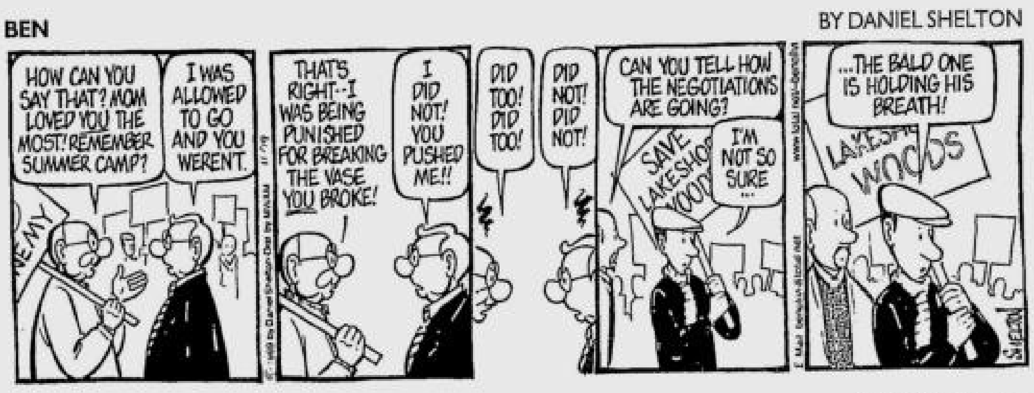
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HERE GOES.
PURRRR
THAT SHOULD KEEP ME IN TREATS FOR A FEW DAYS.
11-23

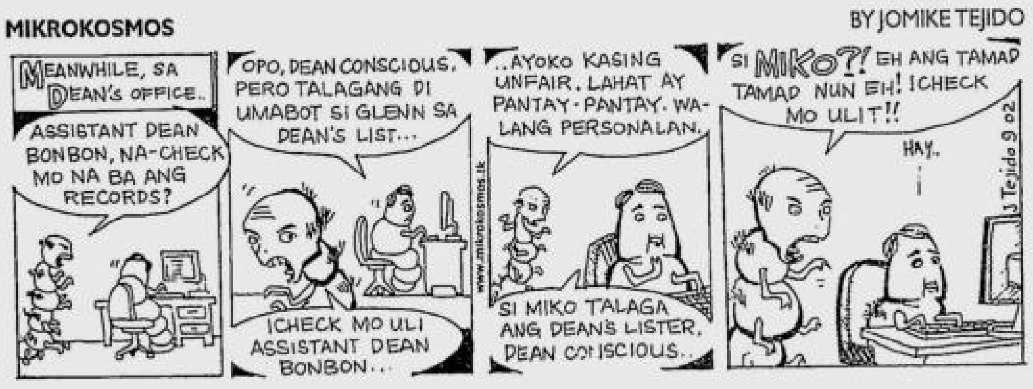
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YOU HAVE AN IRRATIONAL PERSISTENT FEAR OF PRAYER!
MAY PHOBIAS DIN ANG MGA DEMONYO
STEV PAB'S

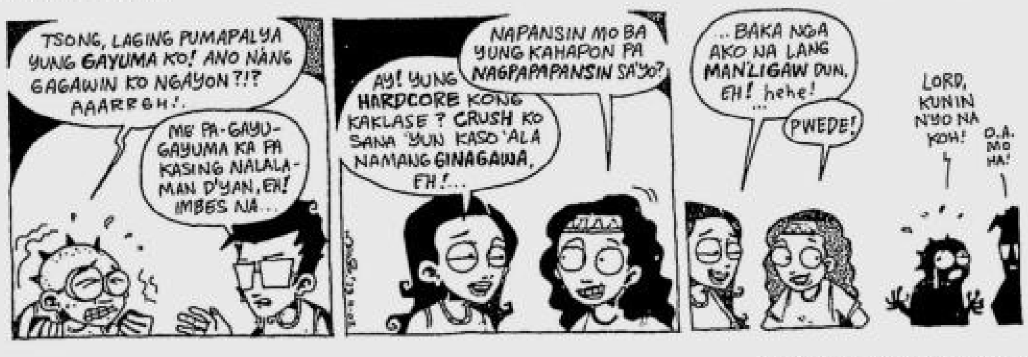
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? MOM LOVED YOU THE MOST! REMEMBER SUMMER CAMP?
I WAS ALLOWED TO GO AND YOU WEREN'T.
THAT'S RIGHT--I WAS BEING PUNISHED FOR BREAKING THE VASE YOU BROKE!
I DID NOT! YOU PUSHED ME!!
DID TOO! DID TOO!
DID NOT! DID NOT!
CAN YOU TELL HOW THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING?
SAVE LAKESHORE WOODS
I'M NOT SO SURE...
...THE BALD ONE IS HOLDING HIS BREATH!
LAKESHORE WOODS
SHELTON

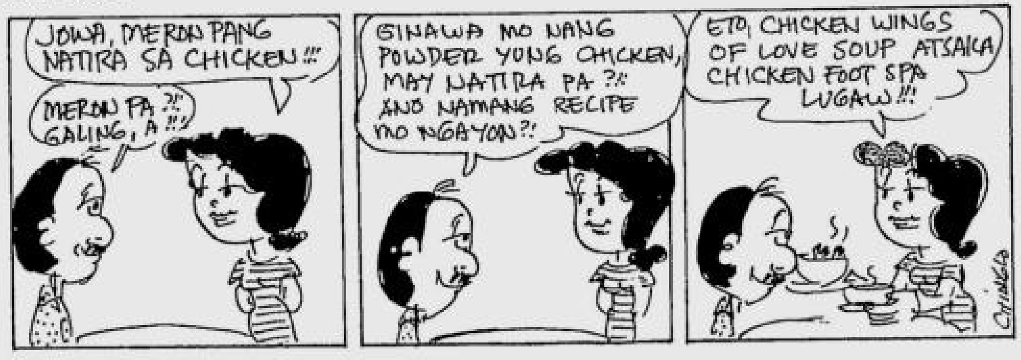
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MEANWHILE, SA DEAN'S OFFICE..
ASSISTANT DEAN BONBON, NA-CHECK MO NA BA ANG RECORDS?
OPO, DEAN CONSCIOUS. PERO TALAGANG DI UMABOT SI GLENN SA DEAN'S LIST...
ICHECK MO ULI ASSISTANT DEAN BONBON...
..AYOKO KASING UNFAIR. LAHAT AY PANTAY-PANTAY. WALANG PERSONALAN.
SI MIKO TALAGA ANG DEAN'S LISTER, DEAN CONSCIOUS..
SI MIKO?! EH ANG TAMAD TAMAD NUN EH! ICHECK MO ULIT!!
HAY.
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J Tejido 9 02

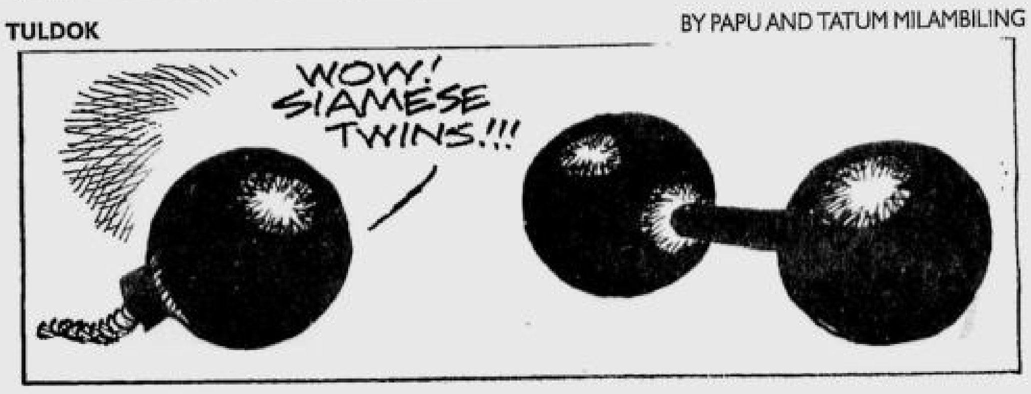
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, LAGING PUMAPALYA YUNG GAYUMA KO! ANO NANG GAGAWIN KO NGAYON?!? AAARRGH!.
ME PA-GAYU-GAYUMA KA PA KASING NALALAMAN D'YAN, EH! IMBES NA...
AY! YUNG HARDCORE KONG KAKLASE? CRUSH KO SANA 'YUN KASO 'ALA NAMANG GINAGAWA, EH!...
NAPANSIN MO BA YUNG KAHAPON PA NAGPAPAPANSIN SA'YO?
..BAKA NGA AKO NA LANG MAN'LIGAW DUN, EH! hehe!
PWEDE!
LORD, KUNIN N'YO NA KOH!
O.A. MO HA!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, MERON PANG NATIRA SA CHICKEN!!!
MERON PA?! GALING, A!!
GINAWA MO NANG POWDER YUNG CHICKEN, MAY NATIRA PA?! ANO NAMANG RECIPE MO NGAYON?!
ETO, CHICKEN WINGS OF LOVE SOUP ATSAKA CHICKEN FOOT SPA LUGAW!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WOW! SIAMESE TWINS!!!

BERGMAN. Passion and obsession.

TRUFFAUT. Sense of security.

AFI craft seminars featured in 'Filmmakers on Filmmaking'

By Leia Torre

JOSEPH McBride's "Filmmakers on Filmmaking" is a book that tackles all the aspects of filmmaking by featuring some of the craft seminars that the American Film Institute has held.

Goal

The National Endowment of the Arts established the American Film Institute as an independent, nonprofit organization in 1967. The organization's goal is to enhance the acknowledgment and comprehension of moving images as an art form, as well as to help preserve film and video for future generations and to develop new talent.

Joseph McBride is an acclaimed screenwriter, film critic, and historian.

His book is divided into sections featuring individual seminars held by Hal Wallis (the studio executive), Richard Zanuck and David Brown (the producer), Ingmar Bergman (the director), Billy Wilder and I.A.L. Diamond (the screenwriter), Sidney Poitier (the actor), Lucille Ball (the actress), James Wong Howe (the cinematographer), Leonard Rosenman (the composer), Polly Platt (the production designer), Verna Fields (the editor), Anthea Sylbert (the costume designer), and Sue Mengers (the agent).

Interesting quotes

The last section, "Short Subjects," includes pertinent and interesting quotes from other seminars that weren't fully included.

The seminars were successful in giving the reader a look into how the movie business functions. With its question and answer format, lucky participants were able to voice questions concerning things they want to know, and get answers from people in the know.

The book is a veritable treasure trove for those who yearn to become moviemakers, because it makes available to the general public valuable material that would otherwise be accessible only through the American Film Institute's archives.

Better organized

There are many relevant quotes. One such statement, by François Truffaut, goes like this: "Filmlovers are sick people. One goes into a moviehouse to seek a sense of security. One looks for something that is better organized than the world in which we live, and if one goes back to see the same film over and over, it's to be in a world where you can predict everything that is going to happen. I don't know if once one becomes a director, one is cured."

Ingmar Bergman shares why he is in the film business: "It is a relief to me to know that if I have an intention, if I have a passion and an obsession, if I want to tell somebody something and if I want to touch somebody, the film helps me. But if I have nothing to say and I just want to make a film, I don't make the film."

And, in a quote to cap all quotes, Richard Zanuck claims: "It's easy to look back and see where you went wrong. And it's also just as mystifying to us to see a picture like 'The Sting,' which we're tremendously proud of, do that historic business. We'd be the first ones to admit that, frankly, it's extraordinary. There are great mysteries in this business." A statement to which his partner, David Brown, adds: "Thank heavens!"

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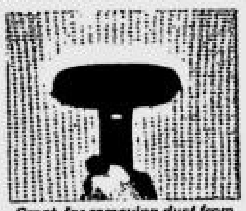

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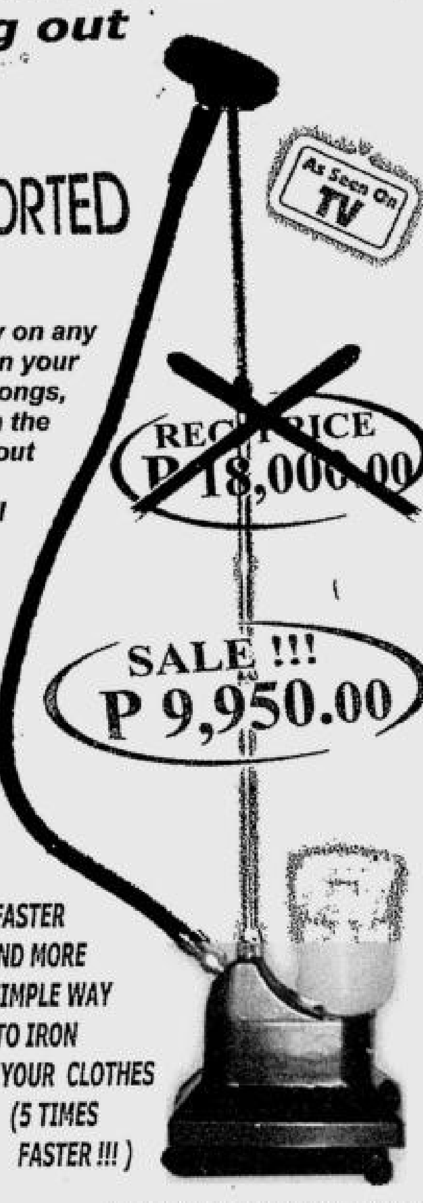

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'White Oleander' is a flawed but moving film

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—Alison Lohman really is as good as you've heard.

As the star of "White Oleander," the 23-year-old actress gets top billing over Michelle Pfeiffer, Robin Wright Penn and Renee Zellweger—actresses with much more collective experience and marquee value—and she matches their poise and strength, scene for scene.

Melodrama

In other actresses' hands, the material might have gotten mired in the melodrama of a Lifetime network-style made-for-TV movie. But their performances—with supporting work from Patrick Fugit, Cole Hauser and Noah Wyle—raise "White Oleander" to a level that's far more tolerable, and often moving.

At times, though, the film reaches for a poetry that eludes its grasp. In adapting Janet Fitch's novel of the same name (a May 1999 Oprah book club selection), screenwriter Mary Agnes Donaghue (who also wrote "Beaches") may have been too faithful.

"I couldn't understand the beginning until I got to the end," Lohman's character, Astrid, says in a wistful early voiceover.

Loneliness

Her uncompromising mother, Ingrid (played by Pfeiffer), advises her: "Loneliness is the human condition. No one is ever going to fill that space," and "Love humiliates you. Hatred cradles you."

LOHMAN won the lead in "White Oleander," a mother-daughter drama in which the 23-year-old actress gets top billing over co-stars Michelle Pfeiffer, Renee Zellweger and Robin Wright Penn.

AP

Between 15 and 18, Astrid bounces between foster homes after her bohemian artist mother kills her own boyfriend. (Ingrid mixes him a drink for him that contains oleander, a flower that creates its own poison for protection, hence the title.)

The film frankly depicts how a daughter comes to realize her mother isn't perfect, and how devastating it can be to find out that the woman who raised you is flawed, even dangerous.

Astrid has that epiphany at a fragile, formative time, and must figure out who she is with the help of not just one female role model, but several, who change her in vastly different ways.

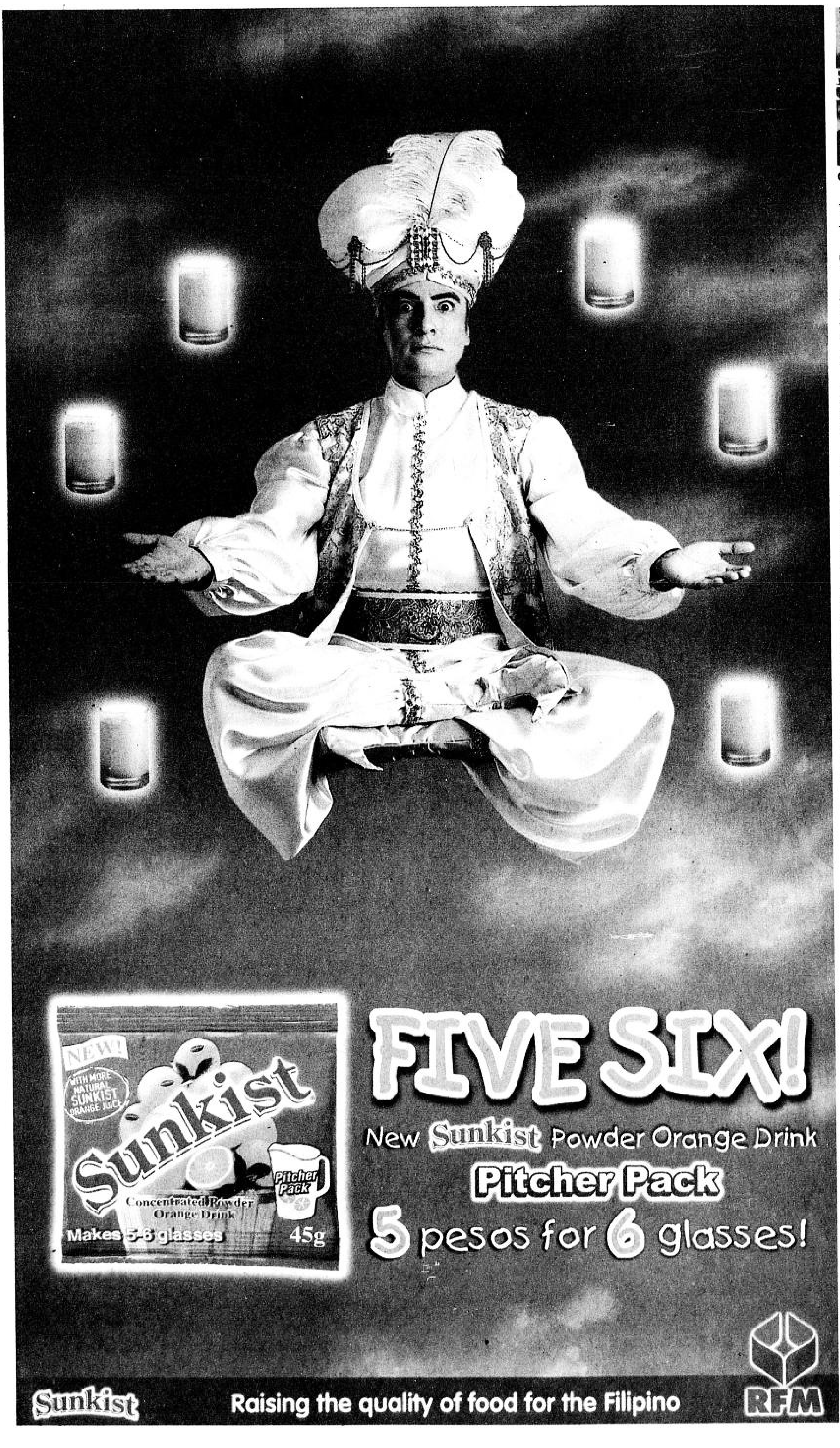
With Starr (Wright Penn), a former stripper and recovering alcoholic who has vocally accepted Jesus Christ as her personal savior, Astrid wears tight, bright clothing and a cross around her neck.

At a school for troubled and orphaned kids, she finds that being artistic and pretty is a liability, so she chops her long blond locks with a knife.

When she moves into a Malibu mansion with Claire (Zellweger), an actress, Astrid may have found a perfect fit: Someone who needs a daughter as much as she needs a mother. But Claire's emotional instability destroys that relationship, too.

Loss of control

Each time Astrid visits Ingrid in prison, she has a different look and attitude; each time Ingrid disapproves, because it represents a loss of control. (Ingrid, by the way, only gets better looking in prison; by the end, she's impossibly luminous.) *AP*



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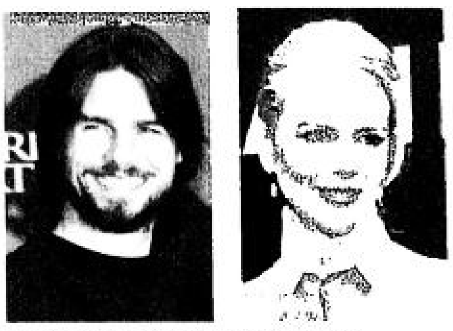

CRUISE AND KIDMAN. Truly in love.

No marriage of convenience

NEW YORK—Nicole Kidman has finally moved to scotch the rumors that her near decade-long marriage to Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise was a sham.

Devastated

In an interview in the December issue of Vanity Fair magazine, the "Moulin Rouge" star firmly denies any suggestion of a marriage of convenience and describes how she was devastated when their relationship ended.

"Look, the marriage was real," says Kidman, 35. "The marriage existed because it was two people in love—It's that simple."

The pair, touted as Hollywood's royal couple, were married in 1990 but split in February last year, with Cruise moving on to a relationship with his "Vanilla Sky" co-star Penelope Cruz.

Greatest regret

Asked why the relationship ended, Kidman refused to go into details, saying only: "I'm starting to understand now. At the time I didn't." The actress reveals that her greatest regret was never having a baby with Cruise, although the couple had two adopted children.

She says she would have been quite prepared to have a child without actually marrying Cruise.

"I was willing to give up everything," she recalls. "I do it when I do a movie too. I'm willing to go, 'Yeah, bring it on, consume me, intoxicate me.' I want to feel alive." Kidman did become pregnant by Cruise, but miscarried in March 2001.

After the breakup, Kidman describes how she would end up lying on the floor in a fetal position, weeping. She also felt ostracized by the Hollywood community.

"People ran from me, because it was, 'Oh my God! It's over for her now!,'" she says. *AFP*

New film . . .

From page E1

harsh hatefulness.

Other filmmakers took notice. Besides "The Ring," Watts soon signed on for four other films.

Already shot are "Plots With a View," an offbeat comedy in which Watts plays the town tart opposite Christopher Walken, Brenda Blethyn and Alfred Molina in a story of rival funeral homes in Wales; "Le Divorce," a French-American culture-clash tale from the directing-producing team of James Ivory and Ismail Merchant and co-starring Kate Hudson, Glenn Close and Stockard Channing; and "The Kelly Gang," in which Watts co-stars with Heath Ledger in a fictionalized romance about legendary Australian outlaw Ned Kelly.

Dual meaning

Watts is about to start shooting "21 Grams" with Sean Penn and Benicio Del Toro, a film whose title carries a dual meaning as a quantity of cocaine and the "difference in body weight between life and death," Watts said. "In other words, the weight of your soul."

Without "Mulholland Drive" on her resume, none of those roles would have come her way, Watts declares.

"It's all as a result of that. Definitely," Watts said. "One guy took a chance on me, and I'm eternally indebted to Mr. Lynch."

Watts said she still can go out in public without being recognized that often, but she's had plenty of chances to witness the hard side of celebrity when hanging out with pal Kidman and her ex-husband, Tom Cruise. *AP*

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SATURDAY *Special*

Kevin Spacey takes quest for new talent to the Web

By Reed Stevenson

LAS VEGAS—In “Pay it Forward,” Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey played a teacher who challenged his students to act on simple ideas to change the world.

KEVIN/ F3

SPACEY. Took a break from acting to work on the new website.

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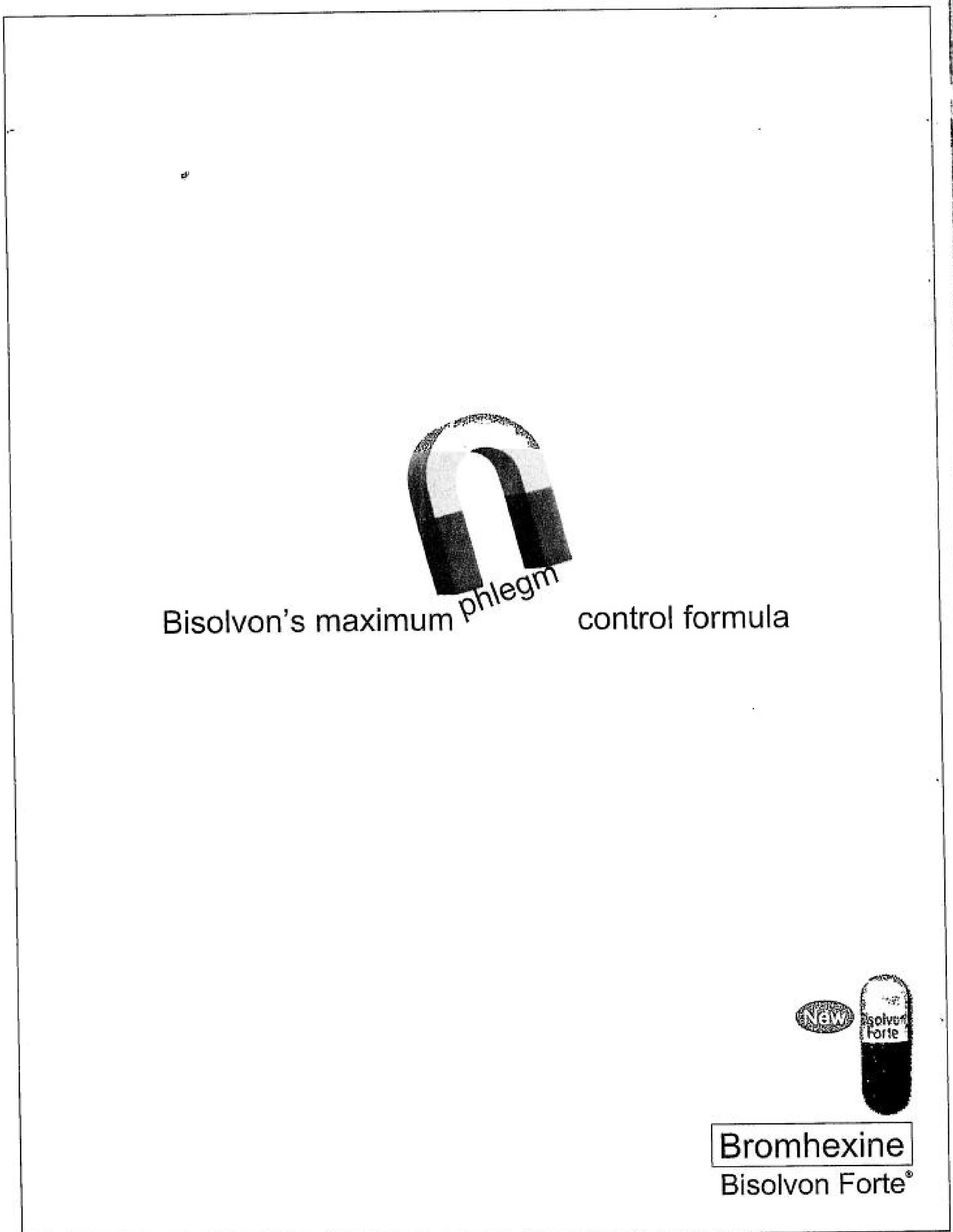

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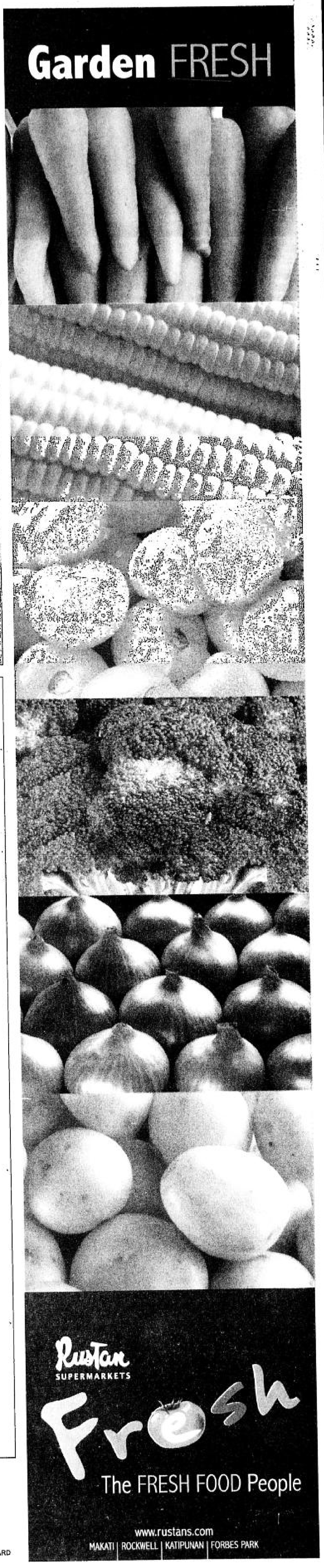

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RAPPER Eminem at the premiere of his film "8 Mile."

AP

Eminem gets up close and personal on the big screen

By Mike Householder

DETROIT—Eminem's movie alter ego, Rabbit, turns and makes his way into the dark night as "8 Mile" ends.

Slow ascent

The screen goes blank and begins its slow ascent to the rafters of the Michigan State University auditorium in East Lansing, site of an advance showing of the film.

A dark, solitary figure stands on stage.

Thump, thump, thump.

The deliberate guitar chord that marks the beginning to Eminem's "Lose Yourself" begins.

"If you had one shot, one opportunity/to seize everything you ever wanted/in one moment/would you capture it or just let it slip," Eminem raps as hundreds of students rush the stage, knocking down chairs and each other at this unannounced live performance taped and broadcast by MTV this month.

Goodbye, Rabbit. Hello, Eminem.

But will the real Slim Shady please stand up?

The 30-year-old Grammy winner makes his feature film debut in the semi-autobiographical "8 Mile," a film that so closely represents a period in the rapper's life that it's difficult to determine where his movie alter ego, Jimmy "Rabbit" Smith Jr., leaves off and where Eminem begins.

Criticisms

The scenes in which Rabbit complains to his mother (Kim Basinger) about her lack of a job and direction are reminiscent of Eminem's repeated criticisms on his albums about his real mother, Debbie Mathers-Briggs.

Another clear connection to real life is Rabbit's loving relationship with his sister, Lilly, who appears to be about the same age as the rapper's real-life daughter, Hailie.

The blur between fact and fiction always has been an issue for Eminem, who rose to superstardom with clever, controversial lyrics and a penchant for purging his soul through music.

Eminem—whose show-biz name is a play on the initials of his real one (Marshall Mathers)—has shared so much of his personal life on three best-selling CDs that listeners know the figures in his life by first name.

Thanks to his music and the media hype surrounding him, the rapper's life story has become common knowledge to millions: A transient childhood spent mostly in Detroit and its northern suburbs, a series of dead-end jobs, contentious relationships with his mother and wife and an ascent to the pinnacle of rap.

In "8 Mile," Eminem's Rabbit lives in a trailer park north of Detroit with his mother and sister, works by day at an unsatisfying job at an auto stamping plant and at night takes to the stage of the Shelter, a hip-hop club where he tries to prove himself through freestyle lyrical battles.

Interview

"This movie literally took me back to that time and to that place, stripped me of all ego, before I was Eminem, before I was anybody," he said in a videotaped interview made available to the media. (Universal Pictures and Interscope Records declined requests from The Associated Press for an interv[illegible] Em[illegible]

While the film took Eminem back to his past, it also took him to his home city of Detroit, where he still lives with Hailie.

The city's burned-out homes, vacant storefronts and gritty streets serve as a backdrop for Rabbit's hardscrabble, bleak life.

"Everything about the story felt better to tell it here in Detroit," director Curtis Hanson said in an interview.

Eight Mile Road, which forms Detroit's northern border across which Detroit's white flight took place, is the line that separates the urban and suburban, black and white. (Detroit's population is 83 percent black. Four of the bordering suburbs are more than 90 percent white. The other three are more integrated.)

In the movie, it serves as a metaphor for Rabbit's search for identity in a predominantly black culture.

The film's subjects often refer to how street credibility is gained by living in the "313" (Detroit) area code and not the "810" area code north of Eight Mile Road, where Rabbit's trailer park is located.

Median

"When I was growing up . . . it was a median that separated black from white, and it was not necessarily economic," Eminem said. "Basically, both sides had pretty much the same income, but when I was growing up, it was literally black on one side and white on the other."

As a young man, Eminem frequented Detroit's hip-hop clubs, including the real Shelter and the Hip-Hop Shop, engaging in lyrical battles in an attempt to win the respect of his peers.

The rap battles at the Shelter provide the film with scenes that are alternately hilarious and gripping, and have drawn comparisons to "Saturday Night Fever" and "Flashdance"—other films in which the characters use music to escape their dreary lives.

"Battling, is like, everything," Eminem said. "If you win a battle, it's like being in basketball and winning a championship . . . It was that intense.

"I remember when I was battling, if I lost a battle, I felt like my life was crumbling."

Eminem's ability to freestyle rap is on full display in the film. Rabbit launches into impromptu raps in a parking lot, at the stamping plant, and outside his mother's trailer.

Music

Eminem wrote music during downtime of filming. When he heard "Action!" he handed the paper and pen to someone, then headed to the scene.

"It's not an accident that he's this successful as a musician," said "8 Mile" producer Brian Grazer, who's coming off an Oscar win for "A Beautiful Mind."

"He puts a lot of work and thought, into not just the lyrics, but the overall composition of his songs," said Grazer, who's also producing the Fox television show "24," a critical hit starring Kiefer Sutherland. "And he put that level of professionalism into his work on the set."

Hanson initially had concerns about Eminem's ability to carry the movie, considering he never had acted and appears in nearly every scene.

But after filming wrapped last year, the director of "L.A. Confidential" and "Wonder Boys" said: "He's a dedicated workaholic. He was focused 100 percent on this [illegible] AP

Musical 'Buffy' episode is a blast

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Monday evening, Studio 23 surprised viewers when it showed a *musical* version of "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer." For an hour, assorted vampires, ghouls and humans sang and danced with great zest and style, in the special episode titled "Once More, with Feeling."

Creator

What was going on here? Well, it's fun and very profitable to become part of the stellar cast of a hit TV series, but doing the same spooky thing from week to week can get a young star down. So, the series' young comers begged its creator, Joss Weldon, to think up a different kind of performing format for them, to stir up their creative juices.

Understanding their needs as artists, Weldon took six months to write and produce the musical special. As for the series' young stars, they didn't mind having to make time for their long singing and dancing rehearsals. The fruits of their long labor were proudly in evidence on Studio 23 last Monday.

The special episode was short on plot but long on musical numbers. The story's premise was quite thin—gaunt, even: A wickedly brilliant demon (guest star Hinton Battle) thinks up a unique way to lead people to hell: he zaps them into expressing themselves for all they're worth, by singing and dancing.

What Buffy and her friends don't know, however, is that too much musical activity will cause them to burn up, and go straight to hell!

Excuse

Well, that skeletal storyline simply serves as an excuse for the cast to launch into some 20 lively song-and-dance numbers that give them—and their viewers—a new kind of performing high.

The wonder is that so many of the show's stars turn out to be superlative musical-theater performers. They've made names for themselves as actors, and yet they prove with this special episode that they've got what it takes to zestfully sing and dance along with the best of them. Can you imagine Judy Ann Santos and Bong Revilla doing the same over here?

GELLAR (center) with her equally versatile co-stars.

Varied

Come to think of it, we really shouldn't be surprised to see the "Buffy" actors doing so well in musical performance. The show biz field is so varied and lucrative in the US that young Americans who want to become stars prepare themselves by taking, not just acting lessons, but also courses in singing, movement, dance, mime, different period performing styles, fencing—etc.!

Their idea is to get themselves ready to do all sorts of material, so that when they get a break in any area of show business, they can take full advantage of it, and get noticed. Then they can parlay that specific success into making a name for themselves in different areas of show biz, thus compounding their moneymaking potential.

This compleat preparation was in triumphant evidence on last Monday's special "Buffy" musical episode. As they sang and danced with great zest and flair, Sarah Michelle Gellar, James Brendan and Anthony Stewart looked so—happy!

For once, they were expressing themselves musically, and the shift raised their performance to a higher level that brought out the best in them as artists.

Let's have more such musical specials from other hit TV shows, including local ones—*if* they have talents who are as good and ready to do that as "Buffy's" versatile stars!

Still fit at 55, Arnold Schwarzenegger is proud of his 'Pumping Iron' documentary

By Lynn Elber

LOS ANGELES—Arnold Schwarzenegger encouraged the director of "Pumping Iron," the documentary that launched him in Hollywood 25 years ago, to re-release it unedited—including a marijuana-smoking scene.

"I would refuse to wipe out that record or change it or alter it because of image's sake," Schwarzenegger said this week. "That would not be true to the filmmaker."

Bodybuilders

George Butler's critically acclaimed 1977 documentary follows Schwarzenegger as he prepares to defend his Mr. Olympia title against fellow bodybuilders.

A digitally enhanced version of "Pumping Iron," repackaged with previously unseen footage and interviews with actors and athletes influenced by Schwarzenegger, debuted Friday on the Cinemax channel.

Schwarzenegger retired from bodybuilding after winning the competition and began to build a movie career, including the early "Conan the Barbarian" and the breakthrough "The Terminator." He shot a third "Terminator" this year.

Politics

He's also dabbled in politics, most recently helping to win passage of an after-school-programs ballot measure in California, and is perceived as a possible GOP gubernatorial candidate in 2006.

"Pumping Iron" follows the then-massively muscled Schwarzenegger working out or trying to psych out his opponents. He comes across as a merry prankster, telling a reporter in one scene that he advised an aspiring bodybuilder to scream, loudly, during poses.

Schwarzenegger may have been putting that reporter on. His claim in the film that he missed his father's funeral because it would have affected a competition was untrue, he says.

It was part of the "docudrama" approach needed to sell a movie about the little-appreciated sport of bodybuilding in 1977, he said in an interview this week.

Each bodybuilder had a part to play in the film and he was the calculating and cocky winner, Schwarzenegger said. "The way to get headlines, to promote the sport, was to make outrageous statements."

SCHWARZENEGGER in a scene from his 1975 film.

AP

His determination, however, was real and apparently boundless. As a child in Austria, he recalls in the film, he dreamed of coming to the United States "and being the greatest."

Vision

"I had a vision when I was a kid and I went after that vision, after that goal, after that dream, and I would not let go until it was accomplished," Schwarzenegger said in the interview.

He's equally dedicated now, he said, toward movies and toward projects such as the Special Olympics and his after-school measure.

Schwarzenegger won't say if he has greater political aspirations, but he is unconcerned that any part of his past—such as the drag he takes off a marijuana cigarette in "Pumping Iron"—will hurt him.

"I did smoke a joint and I did inhale," he said, taking a jab at former President Bill Clinton's famous statement that he didn't inhale. "The bottom line is that's what it was in the '70s, that's what I did. I have never touched it since."

"I lived a certain life, I want everyone to know that's the life I lived. As you grow up and as you become more mature, those things change," he said.

"The only one that's perfect is God."

Still fit at 55, Schwarzenegger is proud of the attention he brought to professional bodybuilding and to how Americans perceive weight-training.

Watching "Pumping Iron" again, he said, "I thought about how far the idea of weight resistance training has gone, because in those days no one did it, no athlete, no older person. The medical industry didn't recommend it. Today, everybody's training." *AP*

Donuts delicious—and McCartney in concert

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

SAN FRANCISCO, California—I was in San Francisco for a Paul McCartney concert at the Compaq stadium in San Jose. My sister, Mariles was able to get hold of two tickets for the sold-out concert. I flew in early to have a full day exploring the many restaurants of this lovely city.

Lemonade

Since I arrived early, all that appealed to me was a Carl's junior charbroiled Super Star burger. This I had with some fried zucchini and a tall glass of lemonade. I love Carl's but somehow the one in Manila is not quite the same.

Before heading for the concert, Mariles brought me to a hole-in-the-wall Japanese restaurant in the West Lake area. Nothing great to me. I had made plans to take some Krispy Kreme Donuts back to Vancouver. So, off we went to the Mission area's donut outlet.

As you walk in, you can see the production line of this brand that has really taken America by storm. It is similar to the mini donuts production at Megamall. In front of the customers, the automated machine dips the freshly fried donuts in glaze (a cloudy liquid sugar coating).

As you approach the cashier, the server hands each customer a freshly made donut which she picks out of the production line. I guess the heat of the donut blends with the higher temperature of the glaze and the result is a perfectly moist, warm and absolutely delicious donut.

First bite

I really went berserk when I took my first bite. It was a hundred times better than a donut that is not freshly made.

After I came from the cashier, I knew why they are so generous in giving. By the time you reach the cashier for your order, you have decided to order every donut that your pocket will permit you take home. I for one, bought four dozens apart from the eight donuts Mariles and I ate going to the concert.

I knew I had a winner when almost everyone from the stewardess to the customs officer of Canada jokingly tried to confiscate my donuts.

Dream

Paul McCartney's concert was something else. It has always been my dream to watch McCartney in concert. This was "the man"!

We were seated right in front of the sound technician so we had two of the best seats of the place. He sang almost all his songs from the Beatles days to Wings, and many new ones. Boy, I sang so loud, I didn't care if anyone could hear me.

He was such a modest guy. He told stories behind the creation of songs like "Blackbird," "Hey Jude," "Let it Be," and "Michelle," "Here There and Everywhere." It was the most beautiful and memorable concert I've ever seen. Super!

Happy eating!

Kevin Spacey . . . .

From page F1

Now Spacey himself is trying to do just that, using the Internet to open Hollywood to new talent.

Other Hollywood heavyweights like Francis Ford Coppola, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck have also tried to mine the Internet for undiscovered talent, but with limited success

Backing

In setting up his website, TriggerStreet.com, Spacey has found backing from beermaker Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc., software maker RealNetworks Inc. and Web portal Yahoo Inc. The sponsored site aims to let screenwriters and filmmakers share and critique each other's short films, giving them a wider audience than they could reach otherwise.

"If you just look at the technology 20 years ago and you were a young filmmaker, you just didn't have the tools (to make a movie)," Spacey told Reuters.

Now, with the ability to shoot, edit and distribute video in digital form, it should be easier for new talent to showcase film, he said.

Lawsuits

That hasn't always been the case, in part because the fear of lawsuits has kept established actors and producers from looking at unsolicited scripts, Spacey said. The risk, he said, is that if similar movies are ultimately made, the question over who owns the idea could quickly end up in court.

"I've been saying 'Isn't there something I can do to break this wall down?' In a way I've done well in the profession, but I've been penalized by being cut off from new talent," Spacey said.

The actor is promoting TriggerStreet.com this week at the Comdex show in Las Vegas, along with Yahoo Movies, in a bid to draw attention to the Web project.

From Monday, Yahoo will feature short films collected by TriggerStreet.com, such as the early works of director Martin Scorsese and Robert Zemeckis, as well as interviews with Sean Penn, Billy Crystal, Mike Myers and other actors.

"We moved on this since we wanted to be closer to the Hollywood community," said Jim Moloshok, who heads Yahoo's entertainment unit.

"For the younger generation of users, the Internet is the primary source of information about entertainment and movies," Moloshok said.

Spacey, who won an Academy Award in 1999 for his role in "American Beauty," said he took a break from acting earlier this year to work on the new website.

Two screenplays

While Spacey's TriggerStreet production company will monitor postings on the site, it is also open to all who participate. Each registrant is asked to review two screenplays before being able to submit and peruse other content.

"You don't have to pay, you just have to participate in the process," said Spacey.

Other Hollywood heavyweights have also tried to mine the Internet for undiscovered talent, but with limited success.

Director Francis Ford Coppola has a virtual studio called Zoetrope.com, while actor buddies Matt Damon and Ben Affleck have put their names behind Project Greenlight, another online forum that hosts contests for potential feature films.

The first Greenlight winner, Pete Jones, beat thousands of competitors for the right to get his "Stolen Summer" movie made. The process was documented in a Home Box Office series.

TriggerStreet.com plans to sponsor a short-film festival 10 times a year, with the top 10 short films on the site reviewed by celebrities such as Bono, Myers, Annette Benning and Danny DeVito.

"Where we're really different is with some of the technology," said Dana Brunetti, president of TriggerStreet.com.

Assistant

Brunetti, who started out as an assistant to Spacey, said budding filmmakers will be able to convert their finished work into a format that offers near-DVD quality video playback using technology from RealNetworks. The content will be broadcast from RealNetworks' servers in Seattle and available in both RealMedia and Quicktime formats.

Since TriggerStreet began taking registrations last week, more than 8,000 people have registered, with 3,000 reviews and 250 screenplays submitted, Spacey said.

In early afternoon on the Nasdaq market, shares of Yahoo were up almost 3 percent, or 49 cents, at $17.94 and shares of RealNetworks were up 4 percent, or 16 cents, at $3.90. On the New York Stock Exchange, shares of Anheuser-Busch were down one percent, or 52 cents, at $51.18. *Reuters*

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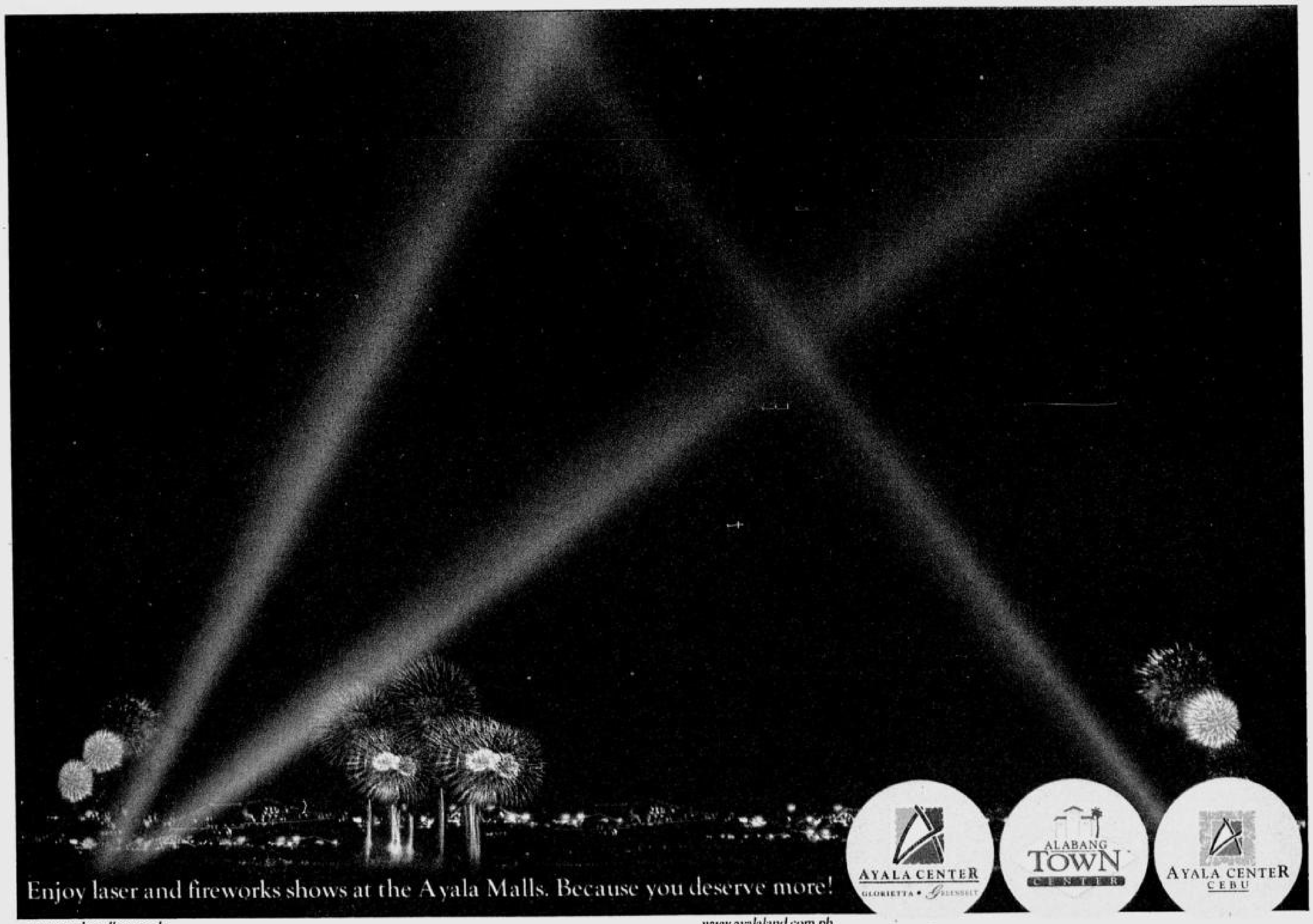
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Eastwood to get Life Achievement Award

His total command of the medium has earned him the admiration of his peers

LOS ANGELES—Clint Eastwood will receive the Life Achievement Award from the Screen Actors Guild for more than four decades of acting, directing and producing.

EASTWOOD. Has starred in 44 films in 42 years.

Film icon

"Clint Eastwood is truly a film icon, a celebrated star of international magnitude," SAG president Melissa Gilbert said Tuesday.

"His prolific career as an actor and filmmaker demonstrates a total command of the medium that has rightly earned him the admiration of his peers, the industry and the public. Over the past 42 years, he has starred in a remarkable 44 films and appeared in 55."

Eastwood will receive the honor next year at the 9th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards show in Los Angeles on March 9, which will air on Turner Network Television.

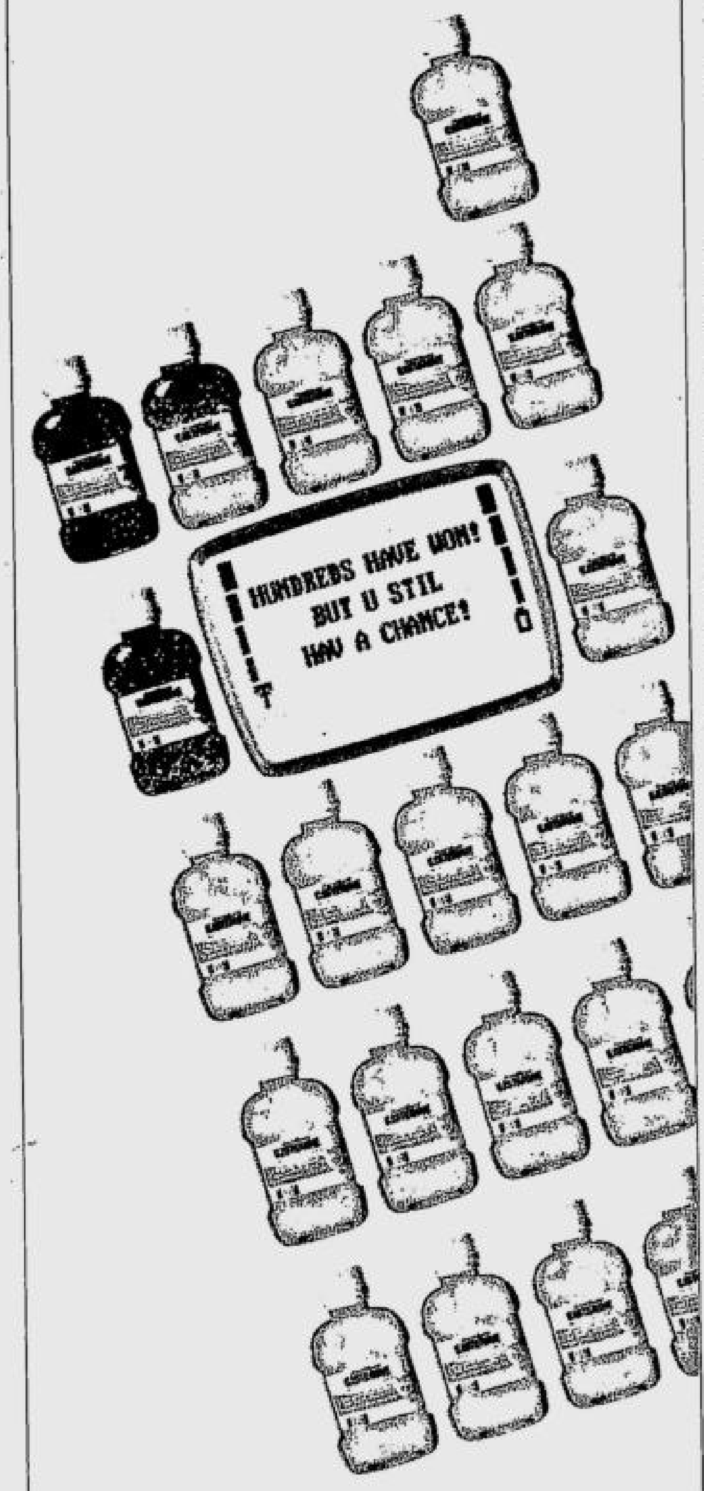
Oscar

The 72-year-old "Dirty Harry" star received an Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award in 1995. His 1992 Western "Unforgiven," in which he starred, won the Academy Award for best picture, and earned him a best-director Oscar.

SAG's Life Achievement Award for career achievement and humanitarian accomplishment goes annually to an actor who fosters the highest ideals of the profession, the guild said. Previous recipients include Sidney Poitier, Elizabeth Taylor, Jack Lemmon and Katharine Hepburn.

Eastwood's film credits also include "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," "Play Misty for Me," "The Outlaw Josey Wales," "Escape From Alcatraz" and "The Bridges of Madison County."

AP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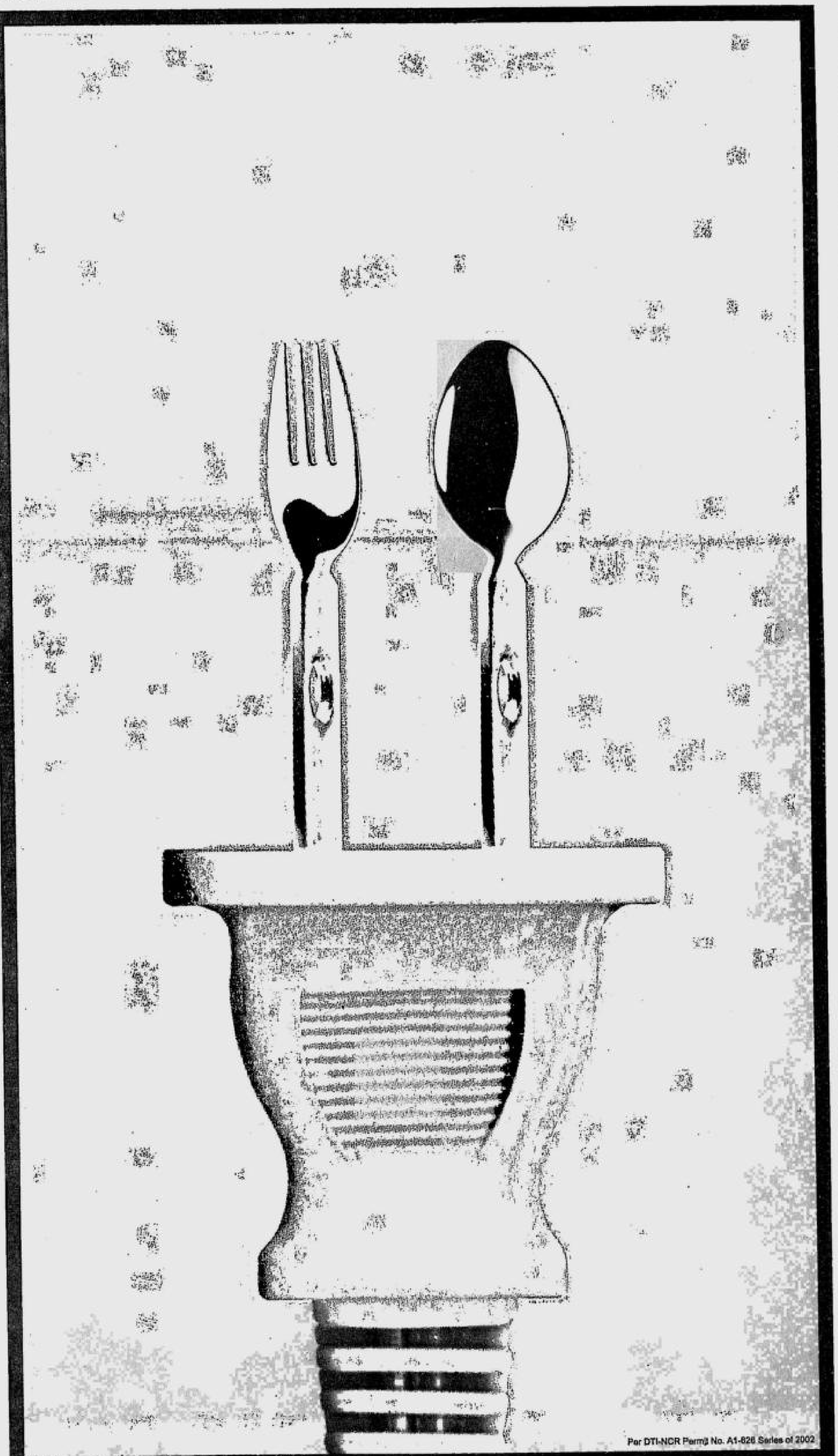

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Museum honors Ava Gardner

By Joanne Kenen

SMITHFIELD, North Carolina—Ava Lavinia Gardner, the barefoot farmer's daughter who grew up to be a Hollywood star, was born and bred just outside this small tobacco-growing North Carolina community, and nobody here has ever forgotten it.

GARDNER. Barefoot farmer's daughter who grew up to be a Hollywood star.

Memorabilia collector

About 20 years ago, a local Ava-boosting newspaper columnist teamed up with an Ava-memorabilia collector in Florida. The eventual result was a small but surprisingly well-attended museum on an old-fashioned main street dedicated to the star of such films as "Show Boat" in 1951 and "Night of the Iguana" in 1964.

Officials at the Ava Gardner Museum in Smithfield, population 12,000, say they get up to 1,400 visitors a month, some from as far away as Europe. They gawk at memorabilia including coffee mugs bearing pictures of the Welsh corgis that Gardner adored and purchase such souvenirs as Ava screensavers, Ava refrigerator magnet cheesecake photos, and a small towel that quotes her as saying, "When I lose my temper, honey, you can't find it anyplace." Visitors can even sign a petition urging the US Postal Service to issue an Ava Gardner stamp.

Repeat visit

"I don't remember any of her movies but my husband remembers them all," said a woman paying a repeat visit to the museum with family members en route from their Norfolk, Virginia home to a vacation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

"I was born in 1943, so I always knew about Ava Gardner," said a North Carolina businessman gazing at her lush Hollywood costumes. He had long wanted to visit the museum and finally was able to slip it into his work travel schedule.

Gardner was born on Christmas Eve 1922 in a rural area known as Grabtown just east of Smithfield, 28 miles (45 km) southeast of Raleigh. Her tenant-farming family endured several financial setbacks and moved around a lot, but she considered Smithfield home.

Although she spent most of her adult life in Spain and London, she was buried in Smithfield after her death on January 25, 1990, at the age of 67.

In recorded interviews, included in a museum video highlighting her life, she recalled her "old-fashioned and God-fearing" education and the "special kind of freedom" of coming home from school, kicking off her shoes, and running barefoot through the warm Carolina earth.

Early life

The exhibition begins with her early life in Grabtown, and includes the Gardner family bible, photos of the already pretty little girl

MUSEUM/ G2

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Aga comes up with another hit

By Nestor U. Torre

AGA Muhlach appears in only one movie per year, but he remains one of the local movie industry's most bankable male stars.

Latest starrer

In fact, he is currently our top romantic-dramatic lead actor, as proven anew by the fact that his latest starrer, "Kailangan Kita," is turning out to be one of the biggest Filipino film hits this year.

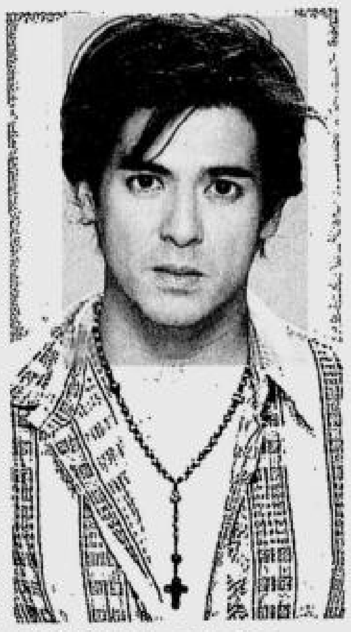
Some people estimate that, on its first week of screening, the film by Rory Quintos, which also stars Claudine Barretto, could make a cool P60 M at the tills.

There's no denying that Aga's participation in "Kailangan Kita" has contributed in a major way to its box-office success. Analyzing Aga's performance in the Star Cinema production, we note that this movie is an important transition vehicle in Aga's career. The fact that it's a big success augurs well for Aga's career in the next five years.

Significant

The production is especially significant because it's one of the first movies that Aga has done as a married man, and into his 30s, with the relatively young Claudine as his leading lady.

Its good showing at the box office proves that Aga's predominantly female fans have "accepted" the fact that their idol has married Charlene Gonzales, and that they're now the parents of twin moppets.


MUHLACH. Has passed an important test in his career.

Also, they accept his more mature look at this point in his career. In "Kailangan Kita," there are more lines on his face, he even looks gaunt in some scenes, but viewers still find him "*papable.*"

Over the hill

This is significant because local film fans have a bad rep for favoring teenage talents, and for thinking that actors in their 30s are already over the hill.

Well, it looks like they're making an exception of Aga, who if he chooses his future projects wisely, could still come up with hits five years from now.

A key ingredient is his concentration on romantic comedy-dramas, much like Hugh Grant in Hollywood.

Also like Grant, Aga is expected by his fans to appear with different bankable leading ladies in his future projects. After Claudine, he could co-star with Donita Rose, Lea Salonga, Regine Velasquez—and Janice de Belen.

Another factor that's become clearer due to the success of "Kailangan Kita" is that local movie fans want variety in Aga's starrers. Thus, the food motif and Bicol location of his current film has charmed them with their freshness. His subsequent vehicles should be similarly innovative.

Greater heights

So, the word's out that the now married, more mature and thirtysomething Aga has passed an important test in his career, and is now poised to reach even greater heights of popularity in the years to come.

Wonderful! But we also wish that, while he enjoys the perks of sustained stardom, Aga doesn't limit himself to romantic comedy-dramas for his next movie projects. We know that he got badly burned some years ago when he played a killer in one of his movies, and that production flopped at the tills.

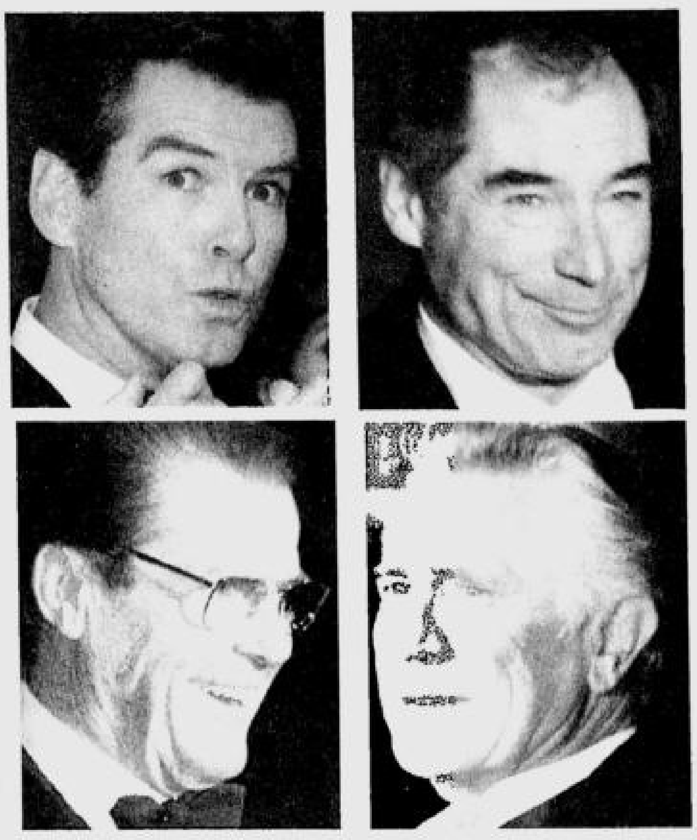
We don't want him to experience another career-threatening debacle like that, but we must remind him that his acting talent should occasionally be challenged by especially demanding projects, from time to time.

Special projects

Yes, he can continue to make a mint with his signature "light" and entertaining starrers, but he should also do special projects to continue to hone and strengthen his talent, which he really can't do in the blithe romances that he so effortlessly topbills.

We have been following and boosting Aga's career ever since he made such a vivid impact in "Bagets." When his career dipped, we reminded producers of his uncommon talent. When he spoke dialogue in a distractingly sibilant way, we pointed the flaw out until he found a way to correct it. And, when his career peaked, we applauded his achievement.

This year, with Aga at the apex of his popularity, we feel that our function is to remind him of the fine, outstanding actor who's chafing under all that fame and fortune. It's time to give other Aga his day on film.


CLOCKWISE from top left: Brosnan, Dalton, Lazenby and Moore.

Quartet of 007s get a chance to Bond

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—For a suave quartet of 007s it was the perfect chance to Bond—a sparkling premiere marking the 40th anniversary of the world's most famous spy.

Four decades

And Queen Elizabeth got to meet the secret agents who had been fighting On Her Majesty's Secret Service for four decades.

Monday night's launch of "Die Another Day" turned into a show business celebration of cinema's most successful franchise—20 James Bond films in four decades.

For Pierce Brosnan, playing the debonair agent for the fourth time was a pleasure and a privilege: "It is a really fine film and I am very proud of it." The Irish actor loves the role so much that he has already said yes to another Bond adventure.

Brosnan is the first to acknowledge his debt to Sean Connery, the first, and to some, the one and only screen Bond.

Evergreen star

"I learned from Connery," Brosnan said of the evergreen star.

Connery could not attend the premiere because of previous film commitments, but the other Bonds turned up at London's Royal Albert Hall to party and celebrate movie Number 20.

For Bond veterans Roger Moore, George Lazenby and Timothy Dalton, it was the perfect chance to reflect on their years playing one of the great movie icons, always a fast hand with guns, gadgets and girls.

For Dalton, the Bond memories were happy ones.

"It was wonderful. I had great fun. I enjoyed every minute of it," he said. *Reuters*

Daboy fights a cult in 'Hula Mo, Huli Ko'

By Edmund L. Sicam

WE'RE at the Music Museum and it's all decked out like a prayer rally is about to take place. The concert venue is usually filled with music-lovers belonging to the A-B economic bracket, but this time the people in the theater are *masa* in appearance. Close to the stage, there are people in crutches.

Soon, a minister starts preaching like Wilde Almeda. Then we espy a sinister-looking guy in a blond wig with a gun at the back of the theater.

Assassin

Is he planning to execute the look-alike? He is—but it's all part of a movie titled "Hula Mo, Kuli Ko" that Rudy Fernandez is finishing for the Metro Manila Film Festival. The would-be assassin is actually Carlos Morales.

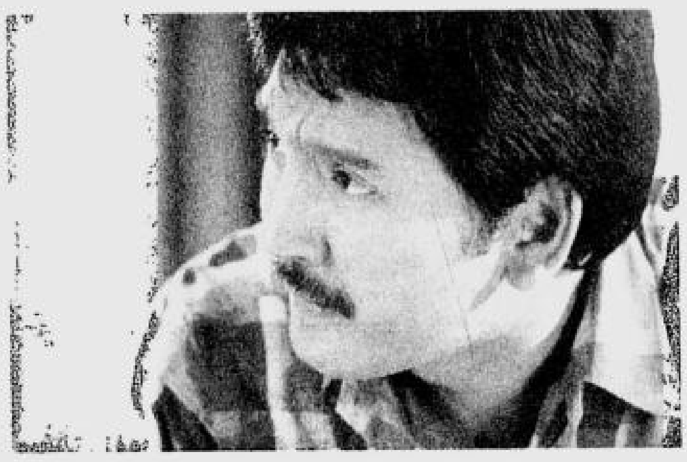
Daboy plays a cop who goes up against a cult. His co-star Rufa Mae Quinto is a fortune-teller whose sibling was killed by cult members.

Unlike Daboy's other films, this one is light. "*Yung tema niya* serious. *Tungkol sa mga kulto-kulto, pero ang* treatment *ni direk*, light," says Fernandez. It's not as bold as his last film, "Diskarte." Daboy is hoping for a PG-13 rating.

Why was Rufa chosen for the role? "*Bagay naman talaga sa kanya yung* role." There aren't many special effects, but they did consult a psychic so that they'd know how to deal with the subject of cults and psychic episodes.

Has Rudy ever had a film where he's *not* holding a gun? "*Gusto ko mangyari yun. Dito yung tema medyo naiiba, pero* action *pa rin—kaya lang yung mga kalaban* are not the usual criminals, *kundi kulto*."

The action star admits he would like to play roles that don't require him to hold a weapon. "*Gusto ko* story *na parang* 'Indecent Proposal.' *Sana yung* role *ni* Robert Redford, enjoy *na* enjoy *ako doon*."


FERNANDEZ. Wants to make a film where he's *not* holding a gun.

International movies

Speaking of international movies, what does he consider when he watches a film? The actor? The director? "Mostly the actor," he says. But he usually watches action movies and the occasional love story. He loved "Message in a Bottle."

He doesn't mind admitting he cries. He usually watches at Rockwell, he says, and he likes bringing a companion because "*Pag hindi ko maintindihan, tinatanong ko*." He laughs heartily. "*Nung araw alam na alam ko ang pelikula. Pero nasira ang ulo ko sa pulitika*." He laughs again.

What's his all-time favorite movie? "The Godfather," parts one and two. Apparently, aside from Redford, he also idolizes Pacino and de Niro.

We also talk about his kids—one is in third year high school at Ateneo, the other is taking up Psychology in college. His love for movies has also been inherited by his kids—one of them made a short film for his class at Ateneo.

Daboy didn't understand it—he asked his son, "*Bakit ganyan ang istorya mo?* Weird *talaga*." But his son told him, "Dad, *pa*-weird *talaga ito*." He may not have understood it, but he's proud of his son, anyway. So far, he says, he's got no problems with his kids. "*Mababait sila*."

Daboy in a soap!

Would Daboy consider doing a soap, just like his wife Lorna? "*Ang hirap ng ginagawa ni* Lorna. *Hindi ko kaya yun*—Three times a week *ang* taping." So Rudy is content doing his sitcom, "Daboy en Da Girl" with Rosanna Roces on GMA.

He narrates how during the first few weeks of Lorna's soap, they rarely got to see each other at home. But they try their best to make Sunday their family day, although it is "violated" sometimes.

Now that Daboy's finishing his filmfest entry, maybe Sundays at the Fernandez home will be more complete.

Filmmaker gets bigger story than he intended

By David Bauder

NEW YORK—First-time director Sam Jones thought he was making a film about the rock band Wilco's music. Wilco just figured they were making an album.

Redemptive value

What they ended up with was a tale that speaks of both the squalid state of the recording industry and the ultimately redemptive power of music.

The film, named after the Wilco song "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart," follows the making of the album "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," a brittle, emotionally edgy departure from Wilco's previous work.

The band's record company rejected the album as uncommercial, but critics raved when it was released in April and it is about to become Wilco's biggest-selling record ever.

Sounds like a perfect movie plot, eh?

"I certainly couldn't look into a crystal ball and find all the stuff that was going to happen," Jones said.

Initial goal

His initial goal was to document the creative process of a quality rock band during its most fertile period. Wilco was a good match, particularly since they weren't so popular that their fame would be an obstacle.

TWEEDY. Believes in doing as much as possible to disrupt the typical recording process.

Wilco agreed to participate largely because leader Jeff Tweedy believes in doing as much as possible to disrupt the typical recording process. The effort to feed creativity by taking musicians out of their comfort zone is apparent simply from the sound of "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," Wilco's fourth album.

At one point in the movie, Tweedy urges his colleagues to take chances with his songs. "There's no reason at all not to destroy it," he says. "We made it. It's ours to destroy."

The band speaks, with naivete in retrospect, about how Reprise Records trusted them to follow their muse.

During recording sessions, tensions between Tweedy and bandmate Jay Bennett rise to the point where Bennett leaves the band. In a passage reminiscent of the Beatles' "Let it Be" movie, the film shows an agonizingly elliptical argument between the two men that ends with Tweedy leaving the room to vomit.

When Reprise rejected the finished album, Wilco refused to change it. Tweedy said in a later interview that he never doubted the work.

"I knew that I felt better about it than any record we've ever made," he said. "We were excited and surprised by our record. It was a real gut, intuitive feeling that this was something really good."

Decision

Nobody from Reprise talked to Jones about its decision. Although the filmmaker tries to play it safe, that makes it easy for the record company to fall into the role of villain during the movie.

David Fricke of Rolling Stone magazine, who Jones said became the conscience of the film, says Reprise's decision illustrates how record companies are increasingly blind to artistic quality in their quest for profits.

Yet Reprise actually does Wilco a giant favor by releasing the band from its contract while letting it keep the album to sell to someone else.

Ironically, Wilco was signed and "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" was released by Nonesuch Records, a corporate cousin of Reprise in AOL Time Warner's music division. So the same company paid for the record twice.

The standoff arguably helped both Wilco and Jones more than it hurt. *AP*

GARDNER. Sultry screen goddess.

Museum honors . . .

From page G1

and her high school diploma.

It moves on to the stunning pictures which her brother-in-law, a professional photographer, sent to MGM studios, photos that won her a trip to Hollywood and a $50 a week contract with MGM.

Having studied secretarial skills for one year at Atlantic Christian College, she knew her choices were either working in a typing pool or heading out west to "the breathe the same air as Clark Gable." Little did she know that she would later star with him in "Mogambo" and "The Hucksters." MGM didn't really see, or look for, her potential as an actress, a potential that would not be realized for some years. What they saw was a simply sumptuous 19-year-old.

"I don't remember how many swimsuits I wore out, without getting near the water," she recalled. "I shot enough sultry looks around the gallery to melt the North Pole."

Soon after, she rushed into a marriage with Mickey Rooney, already a big star, but they were young and the marriage lasted just a year. She later wed bandleader Artie Shaw, and at his urging enrolled in extension classes at UCLA to "improve herself" but that marriage too collapsed in a year.

Eccentric millionaire

She embarked on a close but odd relationship with eccentric millionaire Howard Hughes. A red silk dress he gave her, despite the World War Two scarcity of silk, is on display in the museum.

Next came what Hollywood called the "romance of the century," her marriage to Frank Sinatra in 1951. That too ended in divorce, and she never remarried or had children.

By then, Hollywood had discovered that she could act as well as pose, and the museum contains costumes, posters, and leather-bound scripts of her films like "One Touch of Venus," "The Barefoot Contessa," "The Night of the Iguana" and "Show Boat." Many of those items had been col-

MUSEUM/ G3

Sinatra memorabilia has new home

By Kevin Krolicki

LOS ANGELES—In Frank Sinatra's songbook of America, New York was famously the "city that doesn't sleep" and Chicago may have been "that toddlin' town" but LA was his lady—and he never planned to "kiss his lady goodbye."

SINATRA. Went from the megaphone to the fiber-optic.

Tribute

So it was fitting that his daughters, Nancy and Tina, arranged a tribute that puts his name on the map just miles from the Beverly Hills mansion, the Malibu beach house and the desert ranch where he spent much of his final years.

On Monday, the University of Southern California unveiled its newly dedicated Frank Sinatra Hall, prompted by a gift from Sinatra's daughters, who also loaned the school the largest collection of memorabilia ever assembled to mark the career of the iconic American entertainer, who died in 1998.

The collection, on display after a year-and-a-half of archival scouring of Tina and Nancy's belongings, includes Sinatra's gold records, his Congressional Gold Medal, the Oscar he won for his breakout film role as Angelo Maggio in 1953's "From Here to Eternity" and a signature fedora.

Megaphone

"He had a nearly 60-year career and nobody else can claim that in the music business. He went from the megaphone to the fiber-optic," said Nancy Sinatra, who had her own pop rock career that peaked with the mid-1960s smash "These Boots Were Made for Walking."

The tribute came as Tina Sinatra, a film and movie producer, confirmed that she had signed on with Paramount Pictures to produce an updated remake of 1962's political thriller "The Manchurian Candidate." Denzel Washington is slated to take the role originally played by Sinatra Sr. as a Korean War veteran haunted by dimly recalled memories of brainwashing.

"We've been working on it for a long time. It is a classic but we don't violate that, we have to live up to it," said Sinatra, who is working with producer Scott Rudin on the film.

Sinatra's first wife and the mother of his children, Nancy Barbato Sinatra, attended the USC ceremony as did jazz impresario Quincy Jones, a longtime friend and collaborator.

"I was church people when I first met Frank and he showed me down that road as only Frank could," Jones said, laughing about Sinatra's legendary hard-living.

"He said, 'Q., live every minute like it's your last and one day you'll be right.'"

Jones added: "He said, 'I feel sorry for those who don't drink because when they wake up, that's as good as they're going to feel all day.'"

Lobby

Nancy Sinatra, who has been lobbying the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress to build a national museum of American music for a decade, said the Sinatra memorabilia would remain with USC for now.

Sinatra believed passionately in education and was eager that his children graduate from college, a chance he never had, they said. Nancy and Frank Jr. both attended USC briefly. "Tina never tried so we were 0-3," Nancy said.

When Sinatra's oldest granddaughter graduated from USC, it prompted the family to consider some kind of gift to mark the achievement.

"One of my last conversations with Dad was about college," Tina Sinatra said. "I again apologized for not trying and he said, you're young enough, you can still go!" *Reuters*

Museum

From page G2

lected by a Florida school psychologist named Tom Banks. He had met her briefly when he was 12, and she was a teenaged secretarial student who gave him a peck on the cheek. When she went to Hollywood soon after, he began a 50-year collecting hobby, boosted during a brief stint as a publicity agent for Columbia Pictures.

In 1978, Banks stumbled across a column written by Doris Cannon for the Smithfield Herald, berating Smithfield for doing little to commemorate its famous daughter. Banks and Cannon corresponded and began a temporary summer exhibition on Gardner. A success, it soon grew into a full-time museum, which boasts its own website (http://www.avagardner.org).

Art student

Another avid Ava follower, a one-time Dutch art student named Bert Pfeiffer, also donated a trove of mementos to the museum. Pfeiffer saw his first Gardner film, "One Touch of Venus," in 1949 when he was 18 and never got over it.

He began painting a series of brightly, almost garishly, colored oil portraits based on publicity photos, a series that he continued even after a rare neurological ailment paralyzed him, forcing him to paint through permanently clenched fists.

Museum founder Banks had purchased more than two dozen of Pfeiffer's paintings in the 1980s, three of which Gardner displayed in her London townhouse. After Pfieffer's death last year, a 250 lb (115 kg) crate of his portraits arrived at the museum. Along with it were a vast amount of memorabilia he had collected, including behind-the-scenes candid shots of Gardner on movie sets and negatives of her publicity shots.

"It's mind-boggling that somebody could collect so many pictures of one human being," said museum director Billie Stevens. "It's truly unbelievable." *Reuters*

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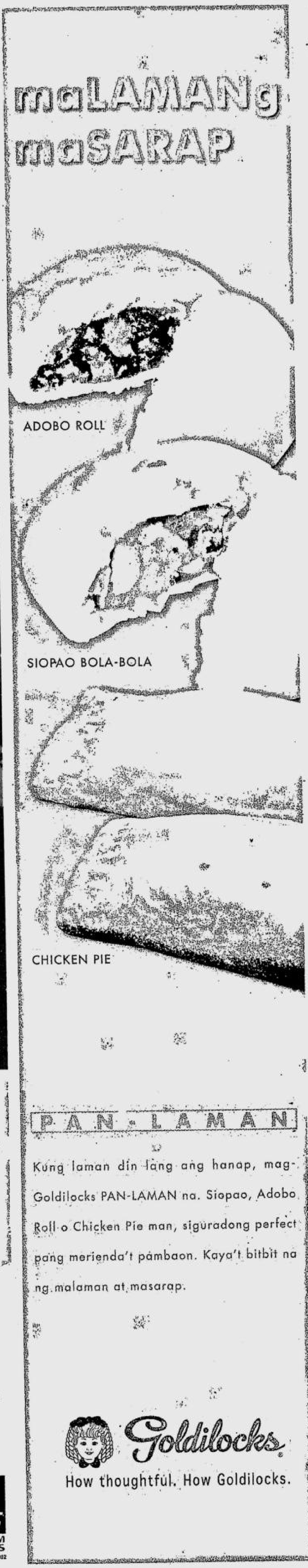
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ADOBO ROLL
SIOPAO BOLA-BOLA
CHICKEN PIE
Goldilocks

PAN-LAMAN

Kung laman din lang ang hanap, mag-Goldilocks PAN-LAMAN na. Siopao, Adobo Roll o Chicken Pie man, siguradong perfect pang merienda't pambaon. Kaya't bitbit na ng malaman at masarap.

How thoughtful. How Goldilocks.

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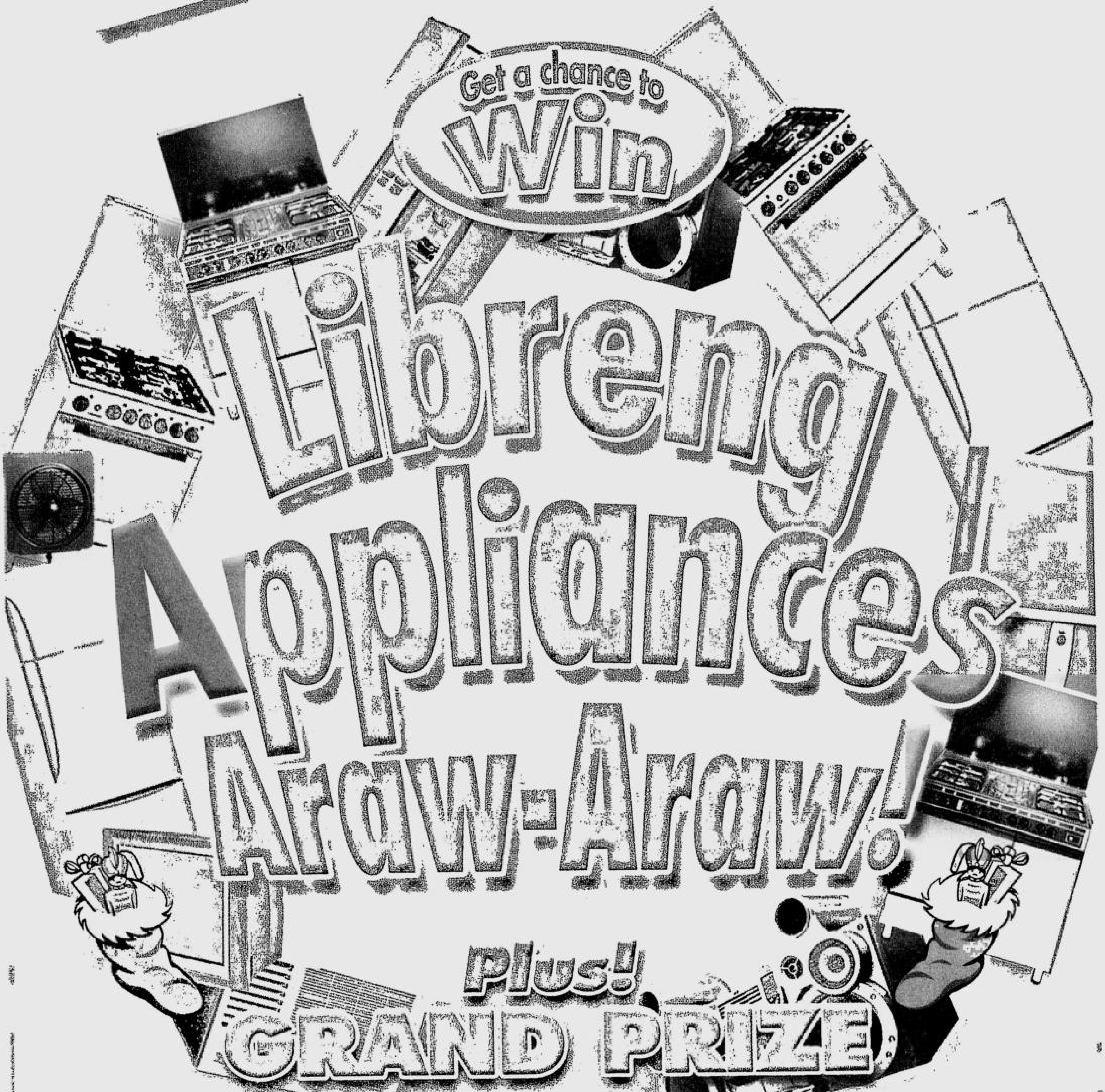

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Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 7, NUMBER 8

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Funky Skis Page 2
- Ang Unan sa Kuwarto ni Nanay Page 6
- Budding Artist Page 8
- The Lunch Box Page 11

Chemistry kids invade Subic

By Eline Santos

FIVE days of chemistry was never more fun.

Four hundred and forty four students participated in this year's National Children's Science Interactive Workshop, an annual event held by the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs since 1996.

This year the workshop was held at Subic Bay, Olongapo and kids were divided into 22 tribes ala "Survivor." They came up with their own names, banners and cheers. From the Chemistry Warriors to the Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment, the tribes took their chemistry seriously to outplay, outwit and outlast everyone else.

Mixing Stuff

Under the trees and the occasional scrutiny of curious monkeys, the tribes tested household items such as dishwashing liquid, fruit juice, milk, and shampoo to find out whether they were acids or bases.

Everyone gathered around closely as tribe members took turns mixing various items with blue and pink litmus paper, and eggplant indicator.

Chemistry/ p. 2

SOMETHING FISHY. Who's on a field trip, the humans or the fish?

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Chemistry... (from page 1)

Molecular Journey

The tribes also made molecular models of ammonia, water and methane out of clay and sticks.

Later on, they pretended to be water molecules and followed its journey in the earth's ecosystem.

Some ended up in rivers or the ocean. Others went up to the clouds. Some were drunk by animals or absorbed by plants. One stayed frozen in a glacier for a very long time.

New Friends

"I want to experience being

Chemistry/ p. 3

CASIO • JUNIOR INQUIRER

Search for 'Rrific Kids

3 Best Featured Kids For 2002

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honor list
But get their homework done

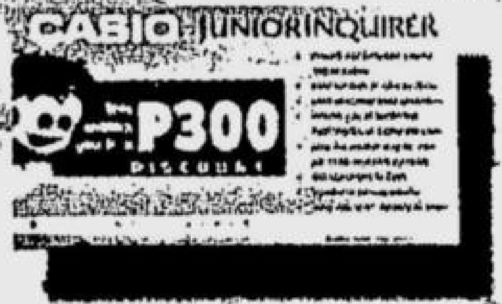
Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific or know someone who is, just fill up the nomination form found in Kids R 'Rrific Page & Send to:

JUNIOR INQUIRER
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Junior Inquirer Kids'r'rrific CASIO

Chosen nominees will be featured in the page, will get a FREE Junior Inquirer – CASIO EMI T-Shirt & a P300 DISCOUNT VOUCHER

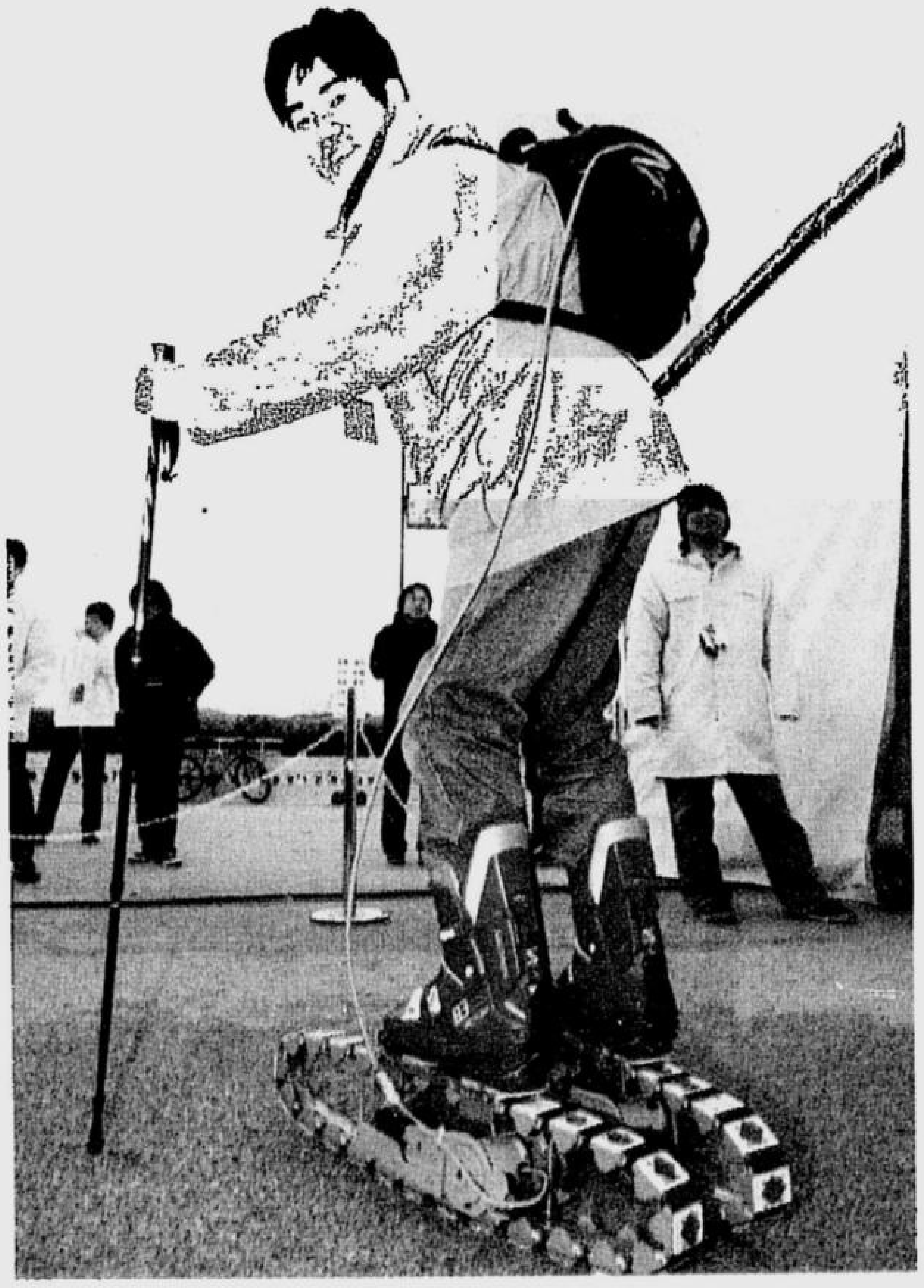


PLUS! At the end of the year, Top 3 'Rrfic Kids for 2002 will be chosen & shall bring home a

CASIO KEYLIGHTING KEYBOARD

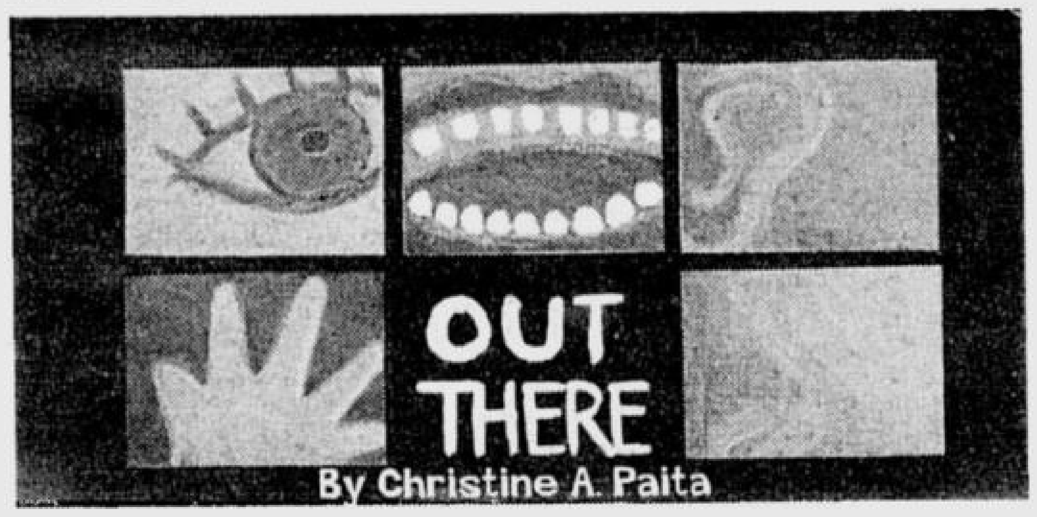
World Scope

Tokyo, Japan



Funky Skis

AN employee of Japan's auto giant Toyota Motor displays its electric powered caterpillar skis. "The Earth Explorer" adapts its shape to winter terrain. *AFP*



Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

ARTS AND CRAFTS. Learn arts and crafts in Jollibee's workshops for kids this November. Check out these fun activities at a branch near you:

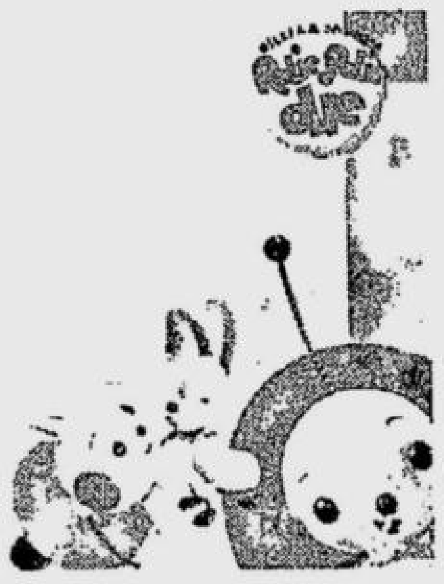
- Nov. 23—Christmas Treasure Box, Kalookan-LRT; **Colored Sand Art**, Grand Central, Kalookan; Clay Accessories, Sta. Lucia Phase 1, Cainta, Rizal; Wormy Picture Frame, Sta. Lucia Grandmall, Cainta, Rizal; Clay Accessories, Royal Family Mall, Malinta; Popstrap Kiddie Bracelet, Robinsons Metro East, Pasig City.
- Nov. 30—**Christmas Treasure Box**, Kalookan-LRT; Glow in the Dark, Gift Bag, Grand Central; Glow in the Dark, Sta. Lucia Phase 1; and Decorative Pot Painting, Sta. Lucia Grandmall. For inquiries, call 363-4690 or 363-7659. Look for Ghem or Mau. You may also e-mail eserrano@info.com.ph.

Contest

COLLECT, CREATE, AND WIN! A fan of Dragonball Z? Join Nissin Cup Noodles' Collecti-Cups Power Ventures storymaking contest. Collect 30 action-packed Dragonball Z stickers from Nissin Cup Noodles Collecti-cups. Use these stickers and your imagination to tell **your very own Dragonball Z story**. Kids 7 to 15 years old may join the Gohan Category. Send your entries to P.O. Box No. 1239 Makati Central Post Office 1252, Makati City. Deadline is on Dec. 14. For more info, call Lorie Dionisio at 813-3330, 810-3861 to 63, or 0918-9228725. Or e-mail lorie@campaignsandgrey.net.

Cable Picks

NEW SHOWS. Check out these two new shows on ABS-CBN Channel 2. "Rolie Polie Olie" is about Olie, a vibrant young boy who just happens to be a robot. In Olie's world, doors open upon your arrival and TVs flip channels with a wink. Airs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8:30 to 9 a.m. **"Incredible Story Studio,"** the TV series that makes kids' stories into movies, also airs every Saturday, from 10-10:30 a.m. The show features wacky, spooky, and touching stories, and is dubbed in Filipino.



"ROLIE, Polie, Olie"

"CROC Chronicles" on NGC.

CROC CHRONICLES. Learn about the crocs in "Pit Vipers/Pioneer Crocs" on Monday, Nov. 25 on National Geographic Channel. Join Dr. Brady Barr in Brazil's reptilian realm. Learn more about the broad-snouted caiman and the venomous Bothrops genus of snakes.

Chemistry... (from page 2)

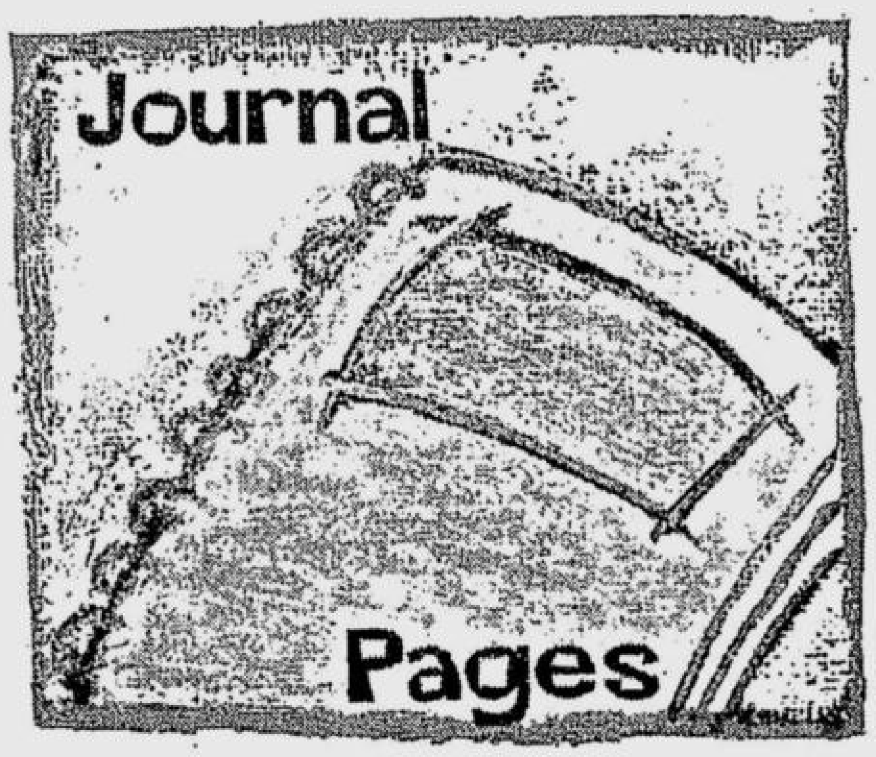
with kids from different schools, make new friends from different parts of the country," said Diana Ross Macarrubo, 12, from Tuguegarao East Central School. "It's fun to be with so many kids who are enjoying themselves."

Diana said that any shyness disappeared quickly. "It was as if we've known each other for a long time. We have confidence and fight-

Chemistry/ p. 12

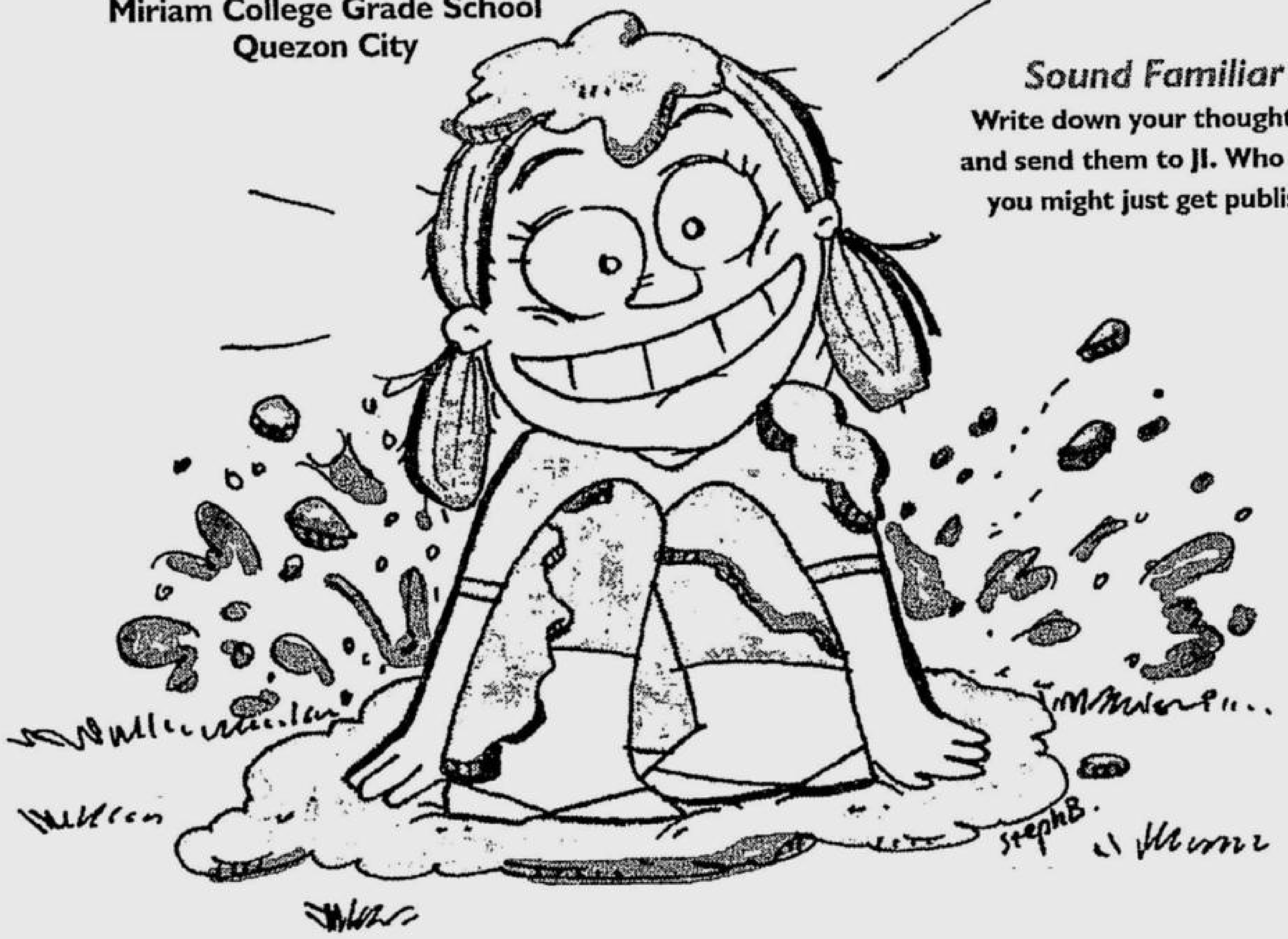
TRIBE Arizona having fun during their technolink activity. RANDY HORMILLOSA

AT STATION 10, kids watch raisins bounce up and down in a cup, due to carbon dioxide in the drink. RANDY HORMILLOSA



My Friend's Blooper

By Mikey Eleazar
Miriam College Grade School
Quezon City

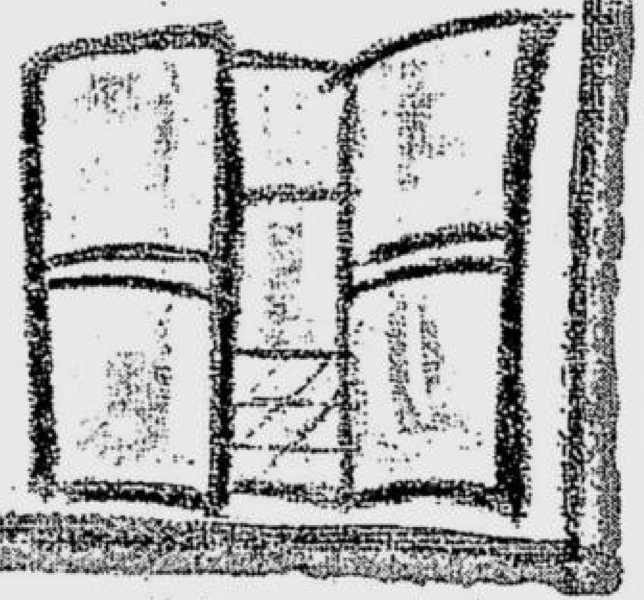


Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

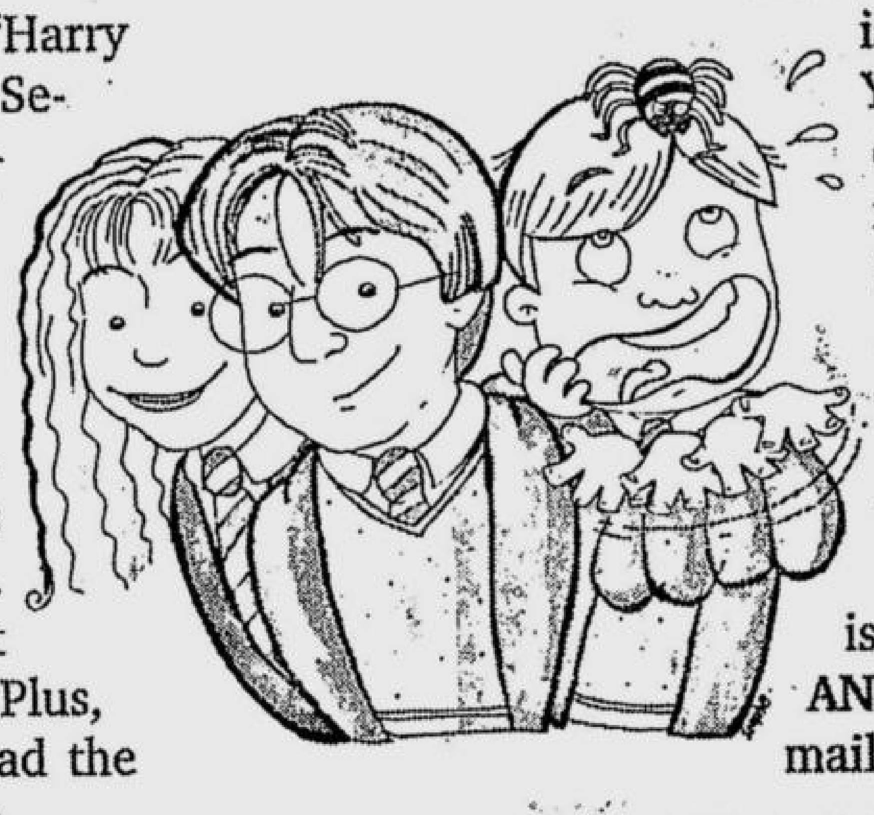
PATRICIA is my friend. She studies in St. Benedict. One time we went to her house. We went there because there was a party. That night we went walking around the park. Then she saw her friends Kate and Janelli. We were hanging around everywhere. Then we stopped to sit at a table. Then Patricia didn't see the mud. Then she slipped and she fell on her butt. Then we all started laughing.

Straight From JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



I Love HP2!



THE new Harry Potter movie, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," was exciting and actually funny, mostly because of Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and his facial expressions and everything else.

HP2 was long-awaited by a lot of Harry Potter fans such as myself. A year is just too much. It has plenty of action and a lot more humor than the first one. Plus, as those who have already read the book, Draco Malfoy (Tom Felton) is the new Slytherin Seeker. You just gotta love that Quidditch scene! Don't forget the new character...Dobby! But you have to hear Moaning Myrtle's voice! It sounds very...ghost-like. I'm probably taking up too much time of whoever's reading this so all I have to say is...WATCH THE MOVIE!!!—ANDREA ANG, asa_91@hotmail.com

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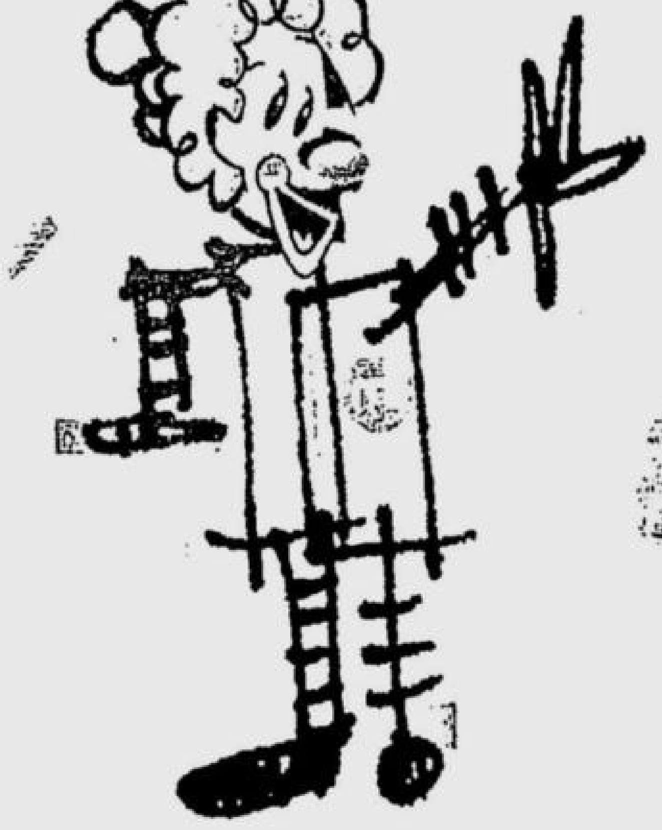
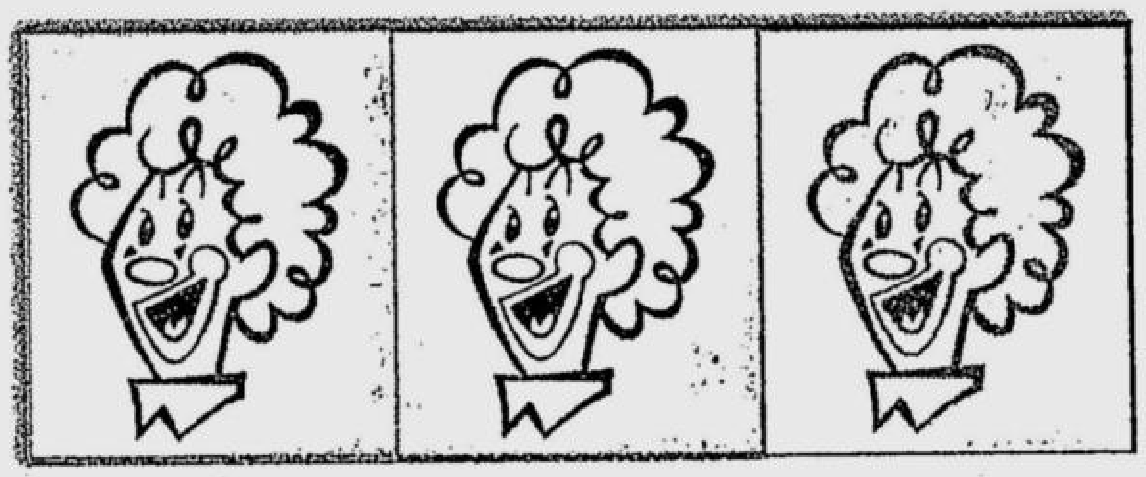
How Pablo and Andy see Ronald.





How do you see him?

Draw Ronald, your magical pal, and you could win a prize!

- Contest is open to kids aged 5-10, male or female, living in Metro Manila.
- Draw Ronald on the space above. Use watercolor, crayons...anything!
- Fill up the entry form and submit this entire page to any McDonald's restaurant in Metro Manila.
- Twenty (20) entries will be chosen. The 20 artists qualify to join a free art workshop and On-The-Spot art contest at a later date (date & venue to be announced).
- Five (5) of the best artworks will be chosen as winners. Each will get P10,000 and have the artwork displayed in a McDonald's restaurant or Bahay Bulilit Daycare Center.
- Entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

Thematic Rendition	40%
Creativity	40%
Overall Impact	20%

- Deadline for submission is on 7 December 2002.

Entry Form

Name

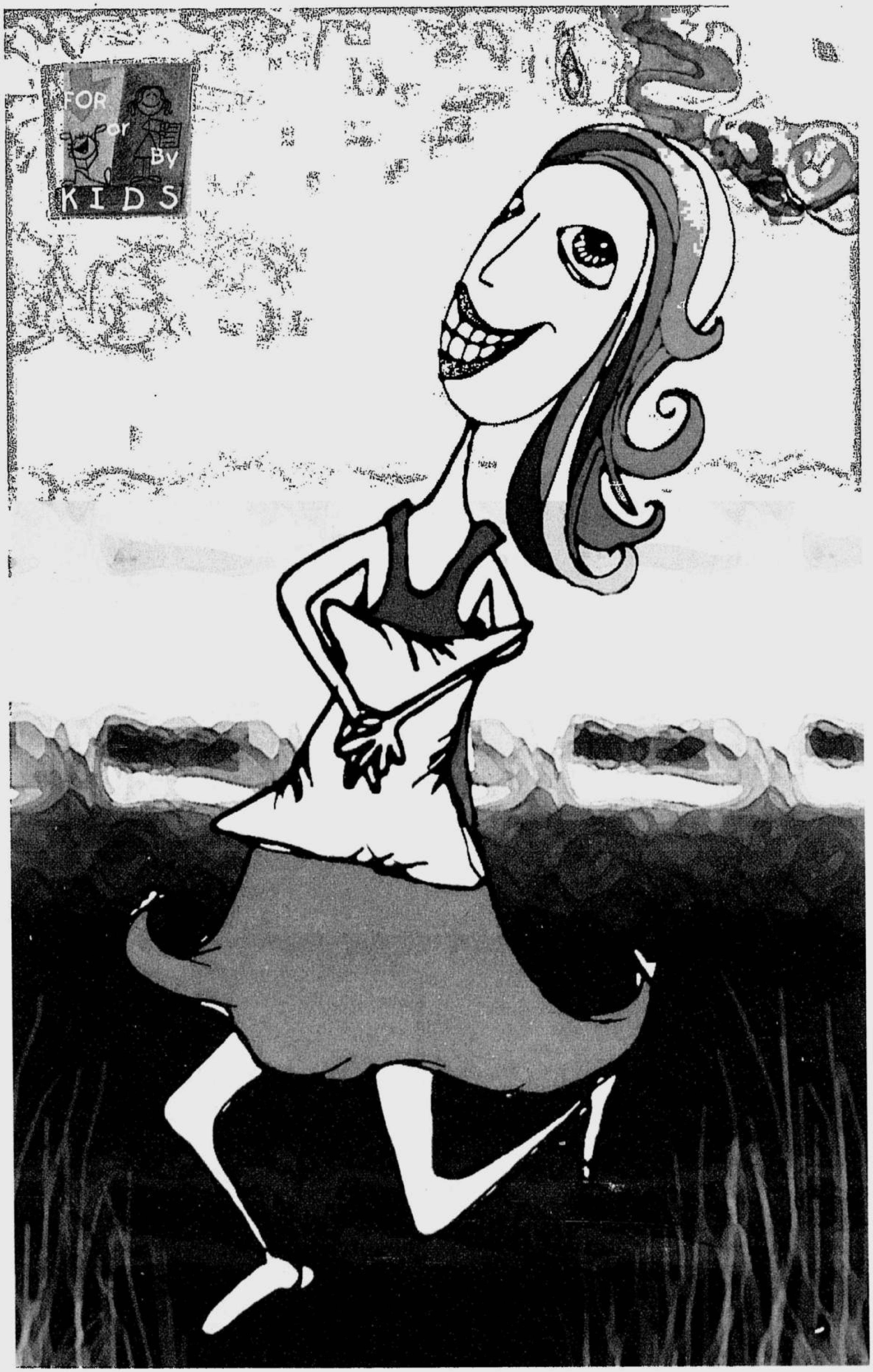
Age

Address

Tel#

Email

Kita-kits sa McDo



Ang Unan sa Kuwarto ni Nanay

Ni Frances L. Valderrama
Guhit ni Brendan Goco

SI NANAY ay mayroong unan sa kanyang kuwarto. Ito ay malambot at kulay puti.

Alagang-alaga niya ito. Linggo-linggo nilalabhan niya. Katerno pa ito ng kanyang higaan at kumot.

Madalas naming paglaruan ang unan ni Nanay. Minsan, hinihiram namin ito at dinadala sa kuwarto namin.

Ang kuwarto ni Nanay ay makulay at malinis. Araw-araw siyang naglilinis. Ayaw niyang nadudumihan ang kama niya.

NOONG bagyo, inabot ang bahay namin ng tubig. Pumasok ang tubig sa kuwarto ni Nanay. Lumubog ang kanyang kama!

Ilang oras pa lang matapos tumigil ang bagyo at nagtulungan ang mga tao sa bayan. Abalang-abala ang mga tao sa pagtaboy ng tubig.

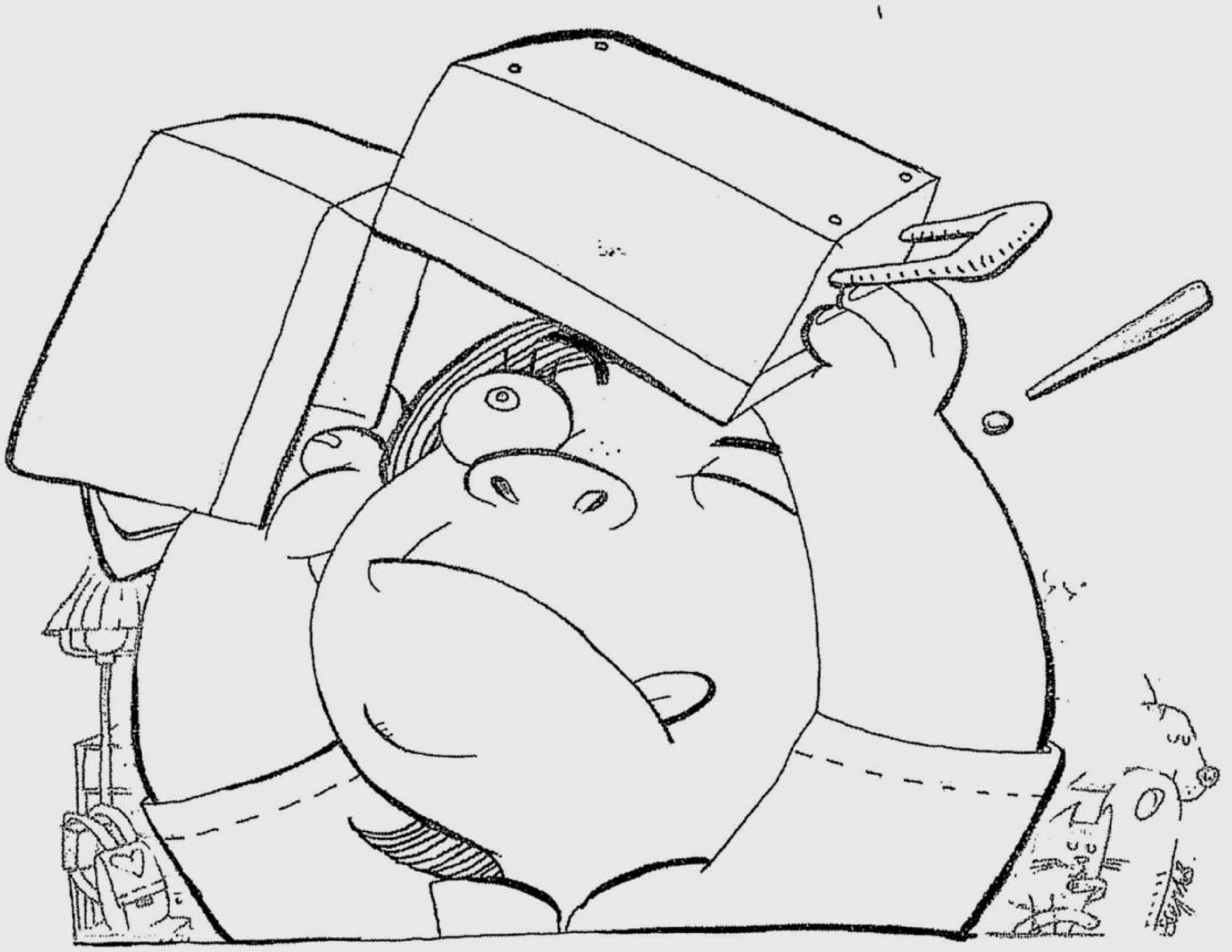
Nalungkot si Nanay dahil hindi na puti ang kanyang unan. Nilabhan niya ito nang matagal. Umiiyak pa nga siya habang nilalabhan niya ito.

Tumulo ang kanyang luha sa labada at bigla na lang pumuti uli ang punda ng unan!

Simula noon handa na si Nanay sa kahit anong problema. Ayaw pa rin niyang madumihan ang kanyang unan.

*Si **Frances** ay isang Grade 4 student sa Colegio Sta. Isabel of Laguna.*

*Si **Brendan** ay miyembro ng Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang InK).*



> *"Noon*
> *kapag hindi ko*
> *nauubos*
> *ang baon ko*
> *ay nawawala ito*
> *pag-uwi ko.*
> *Hindi ko alam*
> *kung saan ito*
> *napupunta.*
> *Ito ang*
> *kuwento ko."*

Bakit Nawawala ang Baon Ko?

Ni Nicole C. Ferrer
Guhit ni Stephanie Bravo

NOON, madalas na hindi ko naubos ang baon ko. At kung nangyayari ito, nawawala rin ang pagkain bago ako makarating sa bahay. Ewan kung saan ito napupunta. Heto ang kwento ng baon ko.

LAGI akong natutulog kaagad pagdating sa bahay galing sa eskuwela. Naisip ko na pwede ko namang kainin ang baon ko pagkagising ko. Pero kapag hinahanap ko naman ito sa aking bag ay wala! Wala na! Ano kaya ang nangyayari sa baon ko?

Nakapagtataka. Nagplano ako na hahanapin ko kung sino ang kumukuha nito.

ISANG araw, nagkunwari akong matulog pagdating ko sa bahay. Nakita ko si Lola Minda (asawa siya ng kapatid ng lolo ko) na kinakain pala ang baon ko.

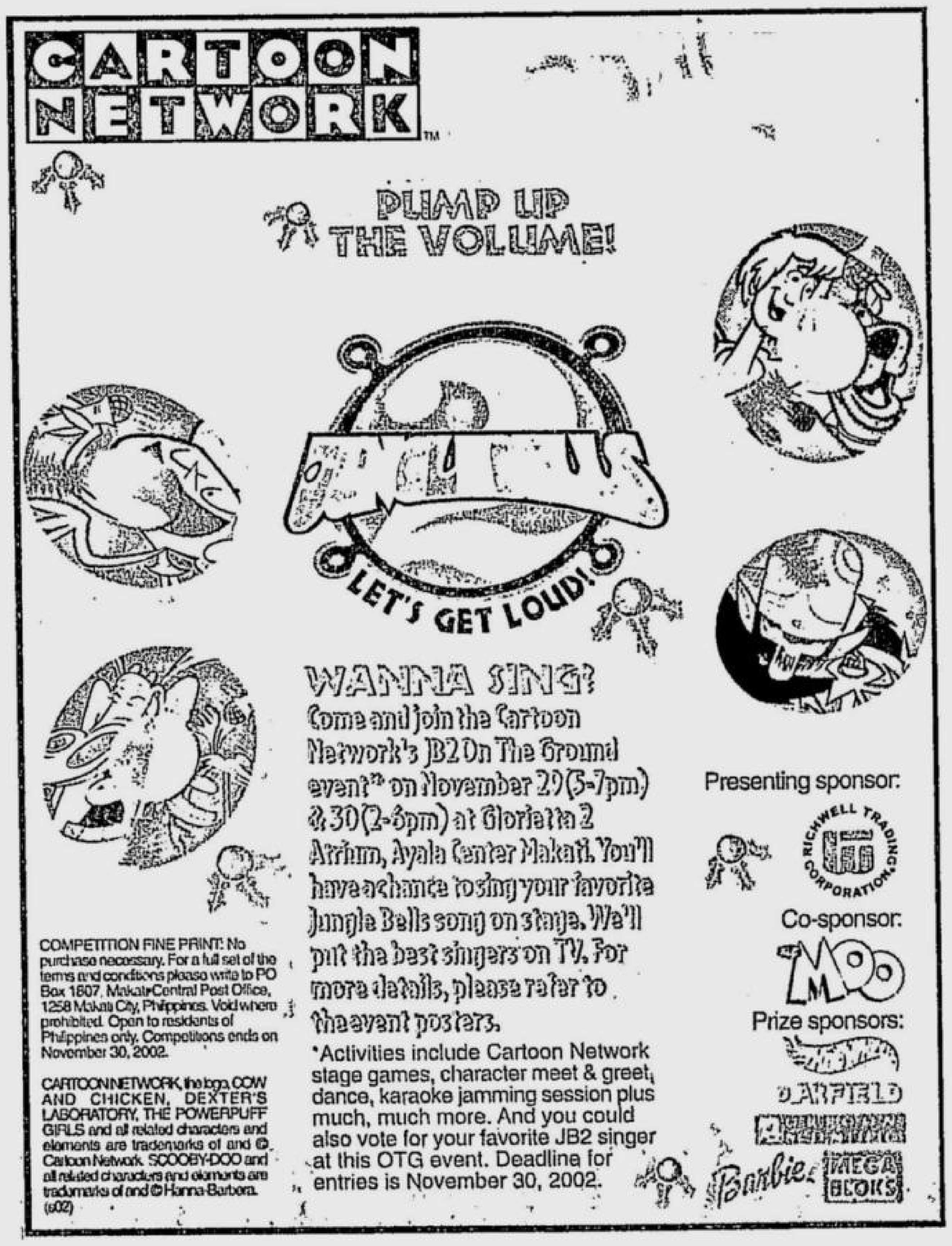
Tinanong ko siya. "Bakit niyo po kinakain ang baon ko?"

Sinabi naman niya, "Palagi ka kasing tulog pagdating mo at akala ko ay hindi mo na ito kakainin."

Sinabi ko na lang, "Ay, sa susunod tayong dalawa ay sabay kakain ng baon ko at i-share ko na lang sa'yo."

Si Nicole, 9, ay nag-aaral sa St. Joseph's College. Siya ay nakatira sa Cubao, Quezon City.

Si Steph ay staff artist ng JI.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LET'S GET LOUD!

CARTOON NETWORK™

WANNA SING?
Come and join the Cartoon Network's JB2 On The Ground event* on November 29 (5-7pm) & 30 (2-6pm) at Glorietta 2 Atrium, Ayala Center Makati. You'll have a chance to sing your favorite Jungle Bells song on stage. We'll put the best singers on TV. For more details, please refer to the event posters.

*Activities include Cartoon Network stage games, character meet & greet, dance, karaoke jamming session plus much, much more. And you could also vote for your favorite JB2 singer at this OTG event. Deadline for entries is November 30, 2002.

COMPETITION FINE PRINT: No purchase necessary. For a full set of the terms and conditions please write to PO Box 1807, Makati Central Post Office, 1258 Makati City, Philippines. Void where prohibited. Open to residents of Philippines only. Competitions ends on November 30, 2002.

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AJ shows off one of his oil paintings, "The Blue Sea." VAL HANDUMON

Paint Brushes and Dinosaurs

Ten-year-old Aaron Joseph Say likes giving his paintings as gifts

AARON Joseph Say or AJ likes to paint. His art teacher says he can paint two oil paintings in less than two hours... but AJ doesn't really keep track of the time. He's too busy enjoying himself.

Sometimes he paints bugs, lizards, boats, dinosaurs, flowers or whales. All from his imagination, he says. "I just think of ideas and they come out."

"I like colored pencils because they're easier to use. I also like oil because it's much easier than watercolor," 10-year-old AJ explains.

"See? I had a little trouble here... the brown got mixed with the blue but it's still okay," he points to the lines of a ship against the backdrop of blue sky.

Titled "Body of Water," it is one of his four works that were included in an exhibit to raise funds for Childhope Asia.

AJ likes to give his paintings as presents. "A Bug's Life" hangs in his dad's office as a gift. For his mom's birthday, AJ gave her a painting he calls "Pot of Flowers."

His grandfather however is his number one patron. "I sell my paintings to my grandpa."

AJ's ambition however is to be a paleontologist. One of his favorite places is a museum in Toronto where he saw dinosaur fossils on display.

"The *Tyrannosaurus rex* is the king hunter, the king of the Jurassic," says AJ in admiration and explains that the *T. rex* could not have been killed by the *Spinosaurus* in Jurassic Park 3.

"Well, it's only a movie," he shrugs. "We're not even sure if the *Spinosaurus* is bigger than the *Tyrannosaurus*."

A Grade 4 student at Waldorf School, AJ has many other interests including baseball, violin, and theater. Whatever catches his fancy, AJ pursues it with *T. rex*-like tenacity. ***Eline Santos***

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

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'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific nomination form

I nominate: ______________________

Age: ______________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at ______________________

and studies at ______________________

Her/his contact number is: ______________________

Sender's Name: ______________________

Sender's Age & School: ______________________

Sender's Address: ______________________

Sender's Contact No.: ______________________

KEY LIGHTING KEYBOARD
Only from
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A Teacher Who Writes

By Eline Santos

"THE thing that I like to do best is to teach. That's what I really do seriously more than anything else."

Lara Saguisag de Leon teaches how to write for children, among other subjects, at the University of the Philippines. She is the author of Lampara Books' "There's a Duwende in my Brother's Soup," and "Tonyo's Wishes," a story included in Adarna House's anthology "All from the Same Tree."

"When I say 'teach' I mean teach in many different ways. Teaching dragon boat for instance." Lara coached a dragon boat team, the Boracay Blades, for two months.

Reluctant Sportswoman

"Yuck! Physical activity!"

That's how Lara describes her reaction to sports once upon a time.

"I consider myself as the least sporty person in the whole world," she laughs.

But joining the UP Mountaineers changed that. The fulfillment of conquering a peak was something Lara liked a lot.

Now Lara wakes up at 4 a.m. to train for dragon boat racing in Manila Bay. "Sometimes I ask myself what am I doing here? But once you start paddling, it feels really good."

"Dragon boat has really given me a reason to discipline myself and to strengthen myself," she says. "Nineteen other people are depending on you to do your part. Even If everybody else is fit, if you don't row in harmony, the boat will lose."

Lara says being into sports has given her balance. "I'm more of an extrovert than I was before."

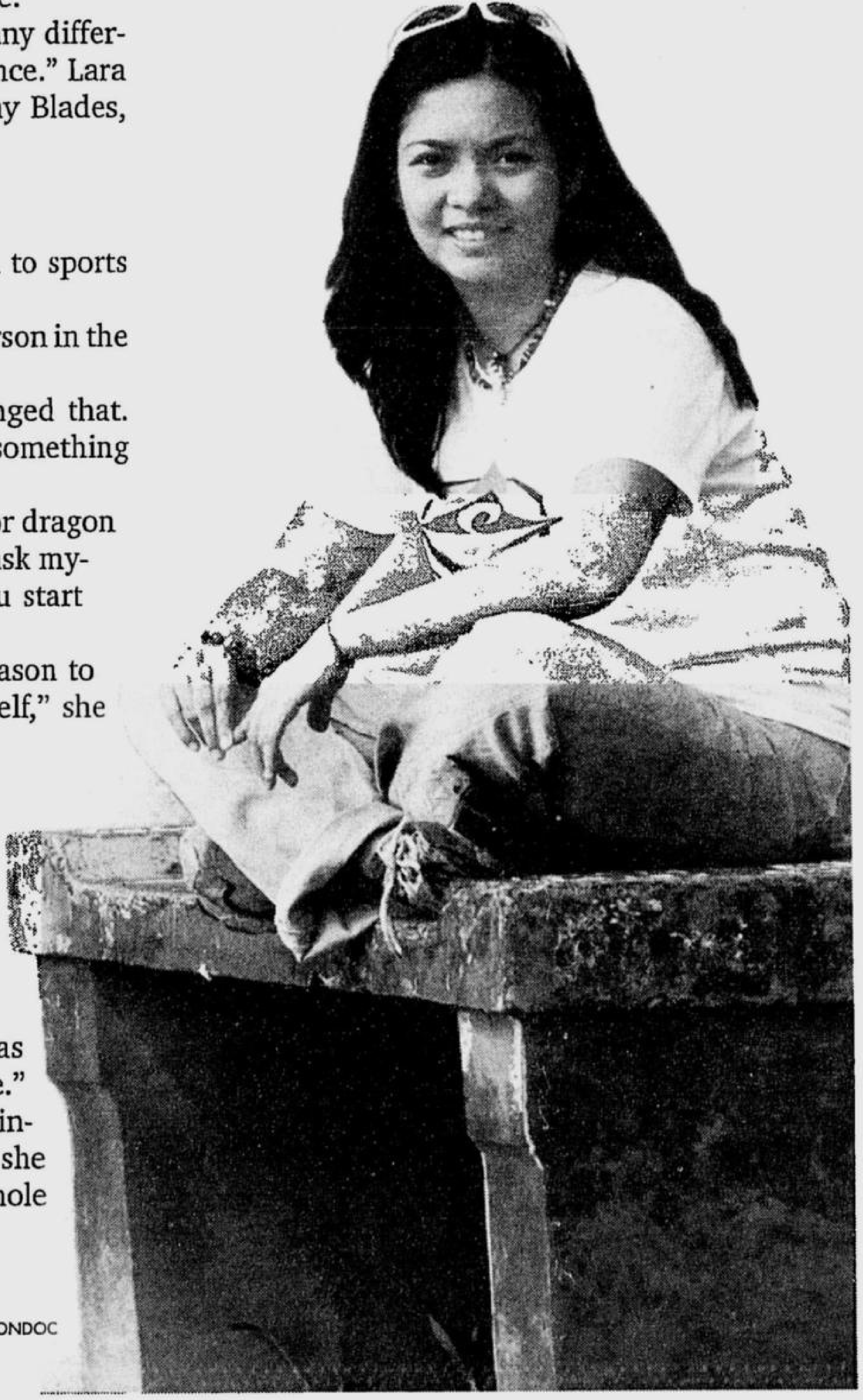
Bookworm

"When I was growing up, my hobby was really reading more than anything else." Her love affair with the written word continues. "I like books that entertain me," she says. "When I say entertain, it's the whole range of emotions... It makes me cry, it makes me laugh. I am affected emotionally."

The pleasure she got from reading became the reason she started writing.

"When I write, my main goal is to entertain people. If it's a sad story, you make them feel and think about it. If it's funny or suspenseful, that's the mood you achieve."

"I don't care if they forget the author. As long as they remember the story."



LARA at UP's Sunken Garden. JOAN BONDOC

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
In our own family
Or the people
we meet in school

I nominate ______________.
He/She is __________ years old and
is my ________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a____________
____________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at ____
____________________.
By the way, I'm ____________
____________________.
I'm__________years old.
My address is______________
____________________.
You may call me at__________
____________________.

Thinkathon

THE NAME'S THE SAME (2)

HERE'S the balance of last week's quiz. In each item, find the one word that's defined by the two different meanings. Again, we're giving away the first letter of the missing word.

N - a simpleton, or foolish person
- something you have with your soup

O - a bodily structure
- a musical instrument

P - a domestic cooking pot
- a mythological creature with horns and the hindquarters of a goat

Q - an illegitimate doctor
- a harsh, croaking sound

R - a noisy argument
- the rhythmic movement of the oars of a boat

S - an old man of great wisdom
- an aromatic herb

T - to pull apart
- a drop symbolic of sadness

U - a mischievous youth
- a spine-covered aquatic animal

V - a member of an ancient German tribe
- a person who willfully destroys or defaces the property of others

W - a magician or sorcerer
- a very skillful or clever person

X - a shrewish, ill-tempered woman
- the nagging wife of Socrates the philosopher

Y - to provide or give up something
- a product or harvest

Z - a person who looks weird and acts odd
- a strong cocktail drink made up of rum and fruit juices

Answers:

1. Noodle
2. Organ
3. Pan
4. Quack
5. Row
6. Sage
7. Tear
8. Urchin
9. Vandal
10. Wizard
11. Xantippe
12. Yield
13. Zombie

Ratings:

superbrain!
12-13

excellent!
9-11

good!
6-8

CAMPUS
NEWS

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

Champions of the Board

By Eline Santos

L-A-Z-Y

NOT usually a positive word, except in a game of Scrabble where the letter Z is worth 10 points and Y is worth 4. Proper placement on a triple-letter square can give a player as much as 36 points instantly.

With such moves, Rochelle Ann Gestopa, 9, beat her peers in the Scrabble tournament of St. Joseph's College Sportsfest.

It was mind over muscle for the Grade 4 level who matched mental prowess in games of Scrabble, Game of the Generals, Boggle, dama, dominoes, and chess.

Lexter Joseph Ong, 9, reached the enemy camp to be champion in Game of the Generals.

Karla Christine Pilapil was the Boggle champ. The 9-year-old also reads the dictionary to increase her vocabulary and get an edge in her game.

Katrina dela Cruz, 10, reigned as queen of dama. Marlon del Rosario checkmated rivals to be the chess king while Gene Avel Riego de Dios won the dominoes competition.

(In other sportsfest events, section Dignity won the basketball championship for the Grade 5 level, while section Gratitude took first place for the Grade 6 level.

Section Purity took the volleyball championship for the fifth graders, while section Fortitude was the Grade 6 volleyball champ.)

ST. JOSEPH kids battled each other for board game supremacy! Feast your eyes on the victors: (Back row) Katrina for dama, Avel for dominoes and Marlon for chess. (Front row) Karla for Boggle, Rochelle for Scrabble and Lexter for Game of the Generals.

VAL HANDUMON

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

FEAR!

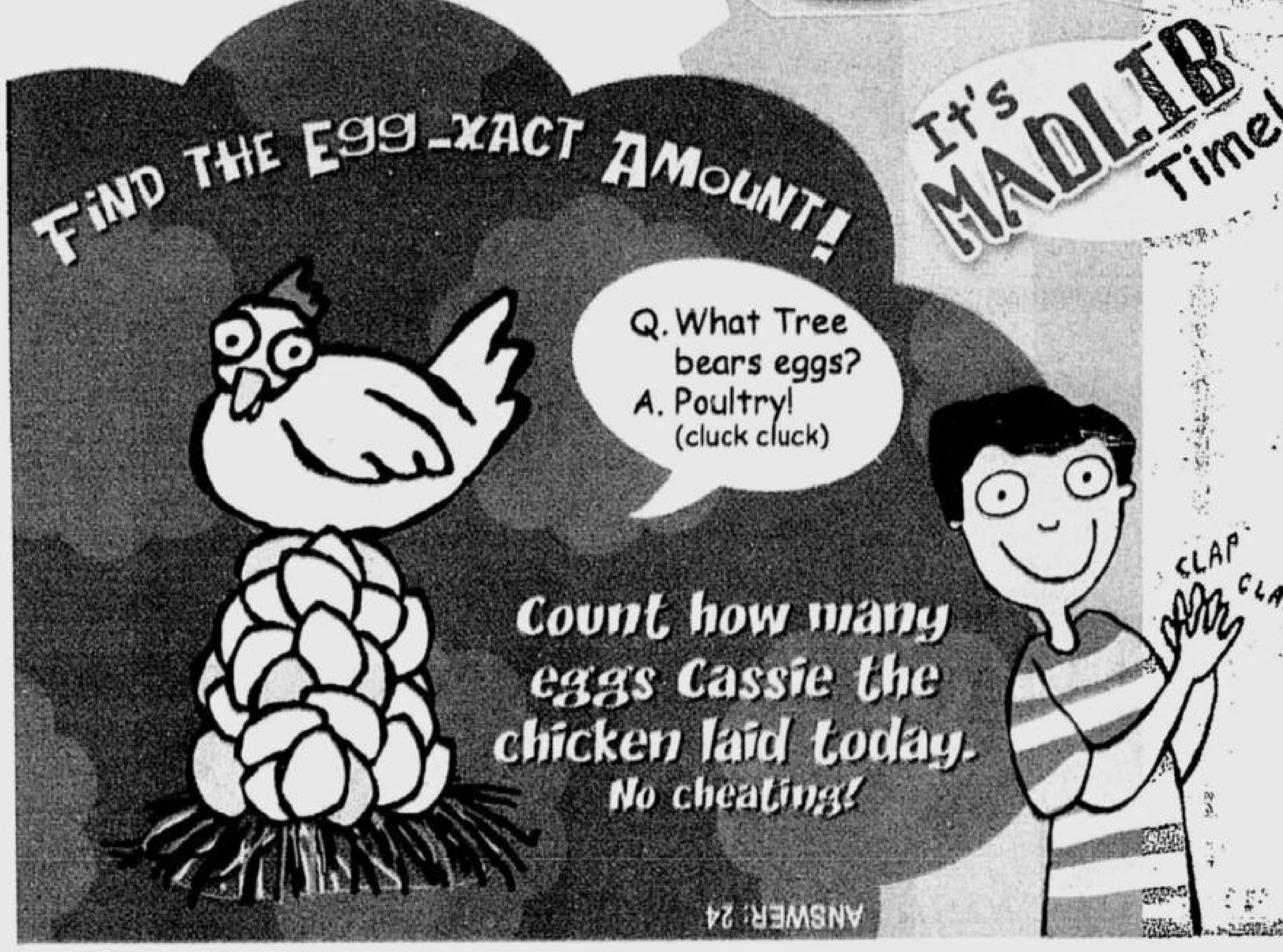
According to the Cambridge International Dictionary of English, a phobia is "extreme fear of a particular thing or situation, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained."

Match the corresponding phobias with the meanings!

1. ACROPHOBIA
2. ARACHNOPHOBIA
3. CLAUSTROPHOBIA
4. HYDROPHOBIA

a. Fear of Spiders
b. Fear of Water
c. Fear of Heights
d. Fear of Closed Spaces

ANSWER: 1C, 2A, 3D, 4B

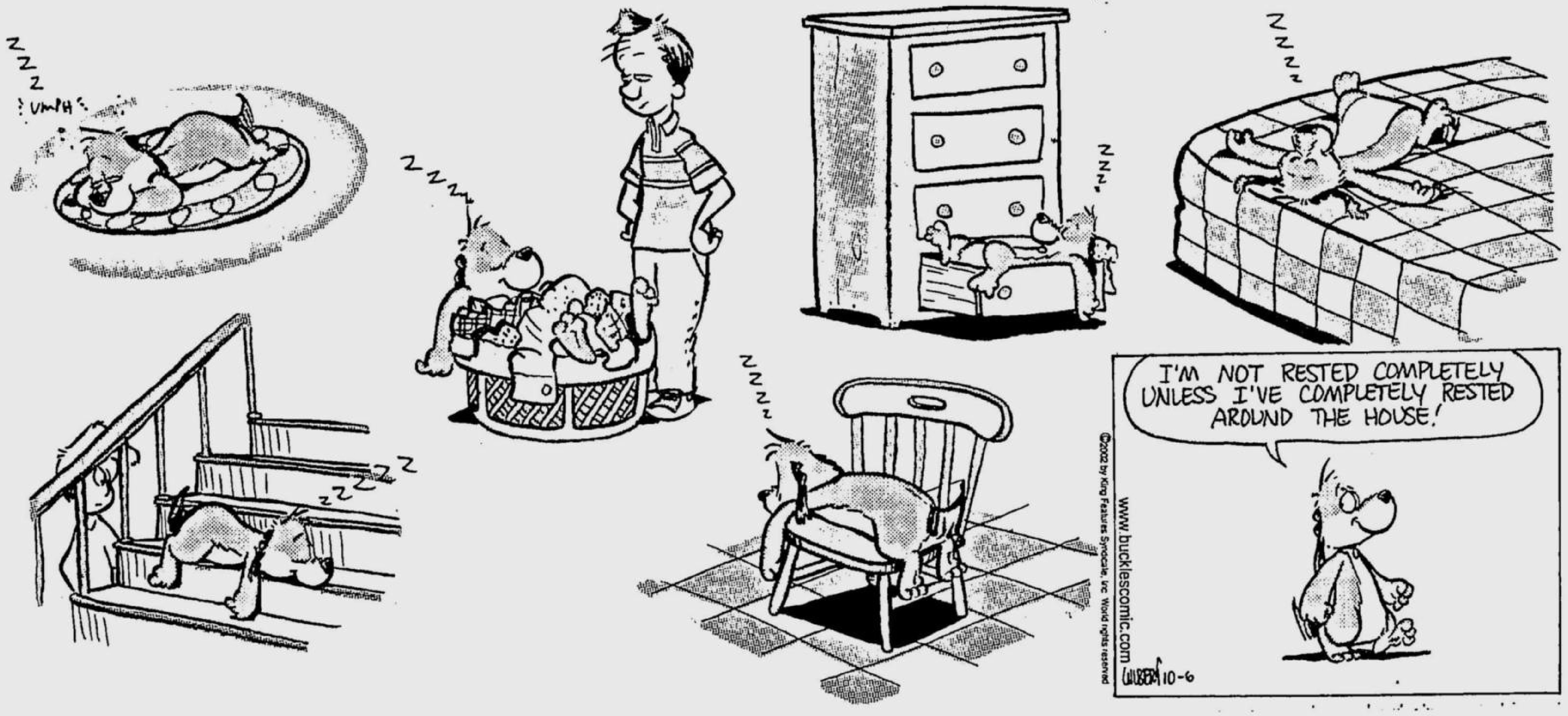

FIND THE EGG-XACT AMOUNT!
Q. What Tree bears eggs?
A. Poultry!
(cluck cluck)
Count how many eggs Cassie the chicken laid today.
No cheating!
ANSWER: 24
CLAP CLAP
It's MADLIB Time!

Fill out the blanks by asking a friend the words needed (the ones in parenthesis) without showing him the story. Now read it aloud and enjoy an amazing tale!

One fine day as I was strolling down __________ (PLACE), I met a __________ (ADJECTIVE) __________ (NOUN) named __________ (NAME). I said, 'Nice to __________ (VERB) you!' And he/she replied, 'We should go __________ (VERB)ing sometime!' It started raining, so I grabbed my __________ (COLOR) __________ (NOUN) and ran to __________ (PLACE). But my new friend was soaked, so I walked back and gave my __________ (TEXTURE) __________ (NOUN). 'This will help you get dry', I said. 'Thanks! In return, here's a __________ (SHAPE) __________ (NOUN). If you __________ (VERB) it three times, a __________ (ADJECTIVE) __________ (NOUN) will appear, and you get a __________ (ADJECTIVE) __________ (NOUN)!'. 'Thank you!', I said. 'You're a really __________ (ADJECTIVE) friend.'

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


ZZZ
UMPH
ZZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
I'M NOT RESTED COMPLETELY UNLESS I'VE COMPLETELY RESTED AROUND THE HOUSE!
GILBERT 10-6

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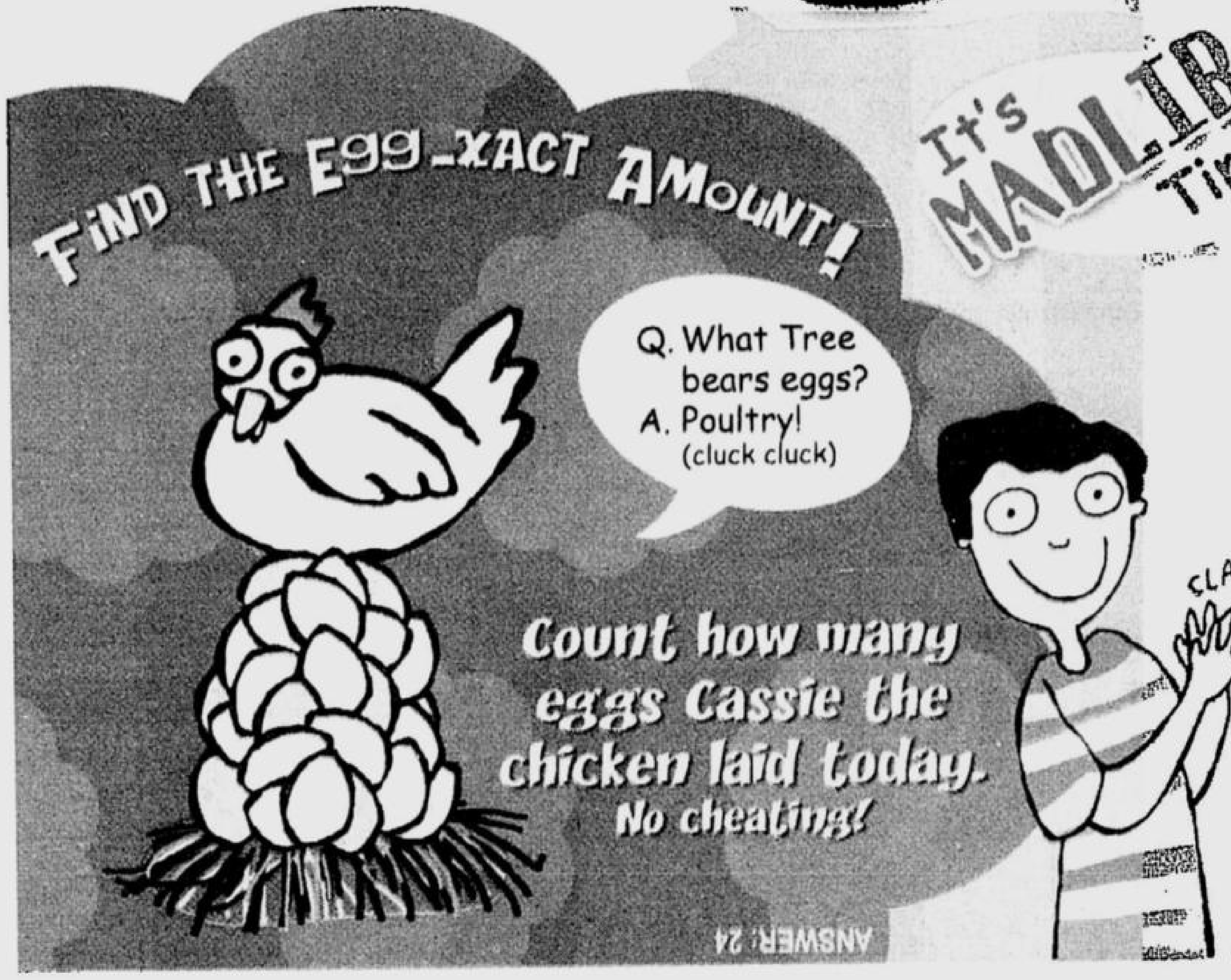
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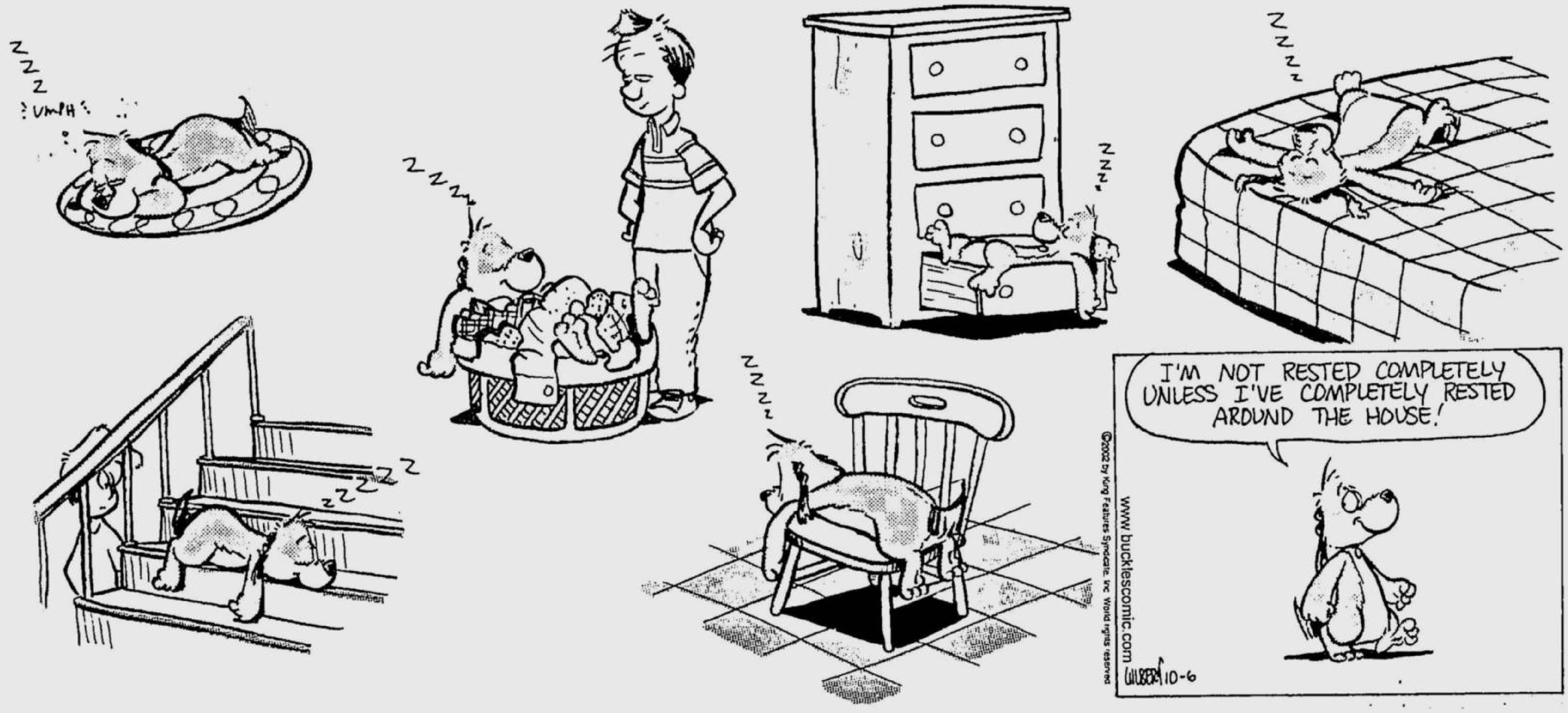
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Chemistry kids invade Subic

(from page 3)

ing spirit," she says of her tribe, Monde.

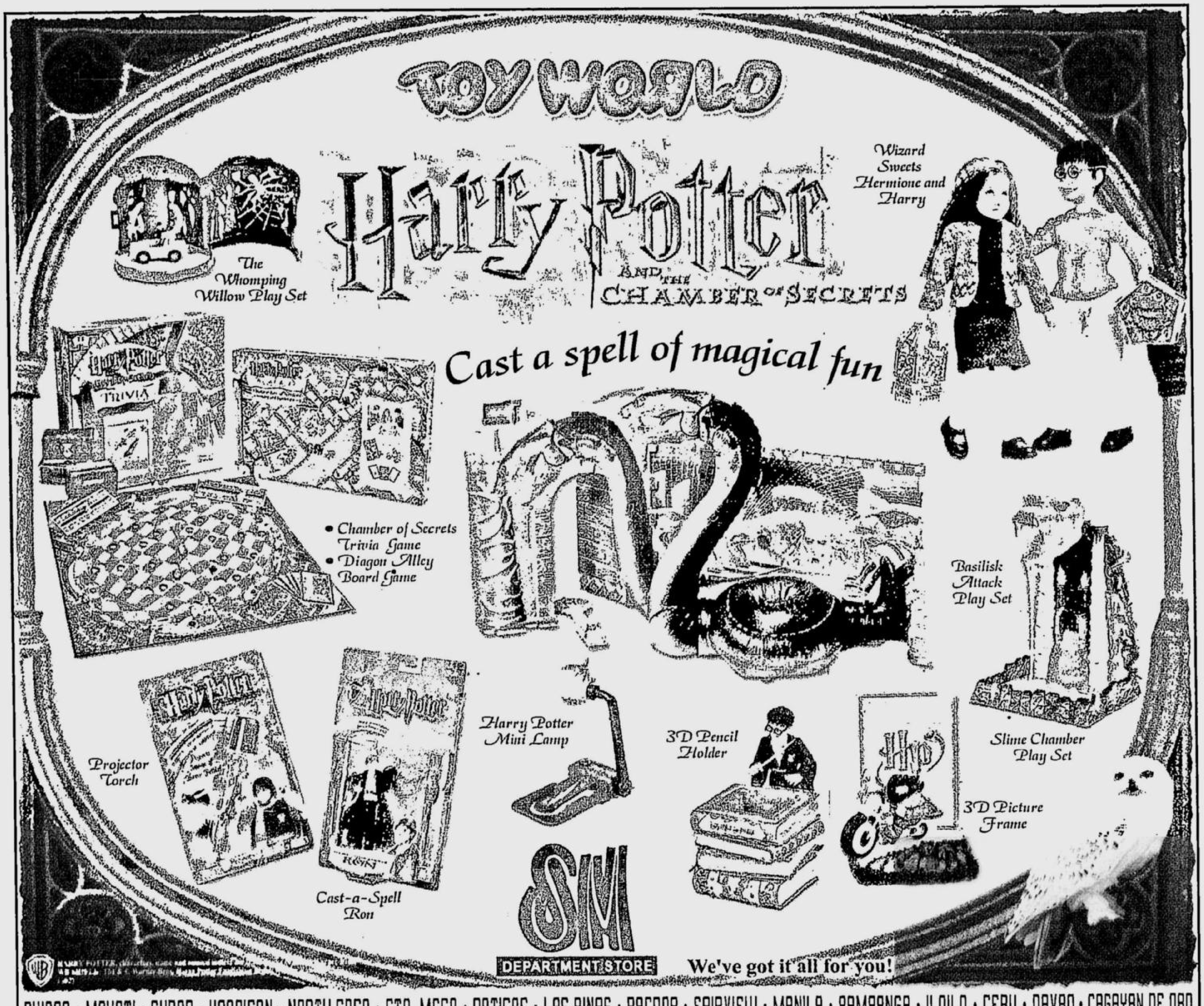
Any homesickness also quickly disappeared in the hustle and bustle of lectures, games, and workshops.

"We learned to be independent," shared Ruffahayza Lauban, 12, from the Notre Dame University Elementary Training Department in Cotabato. "We lived without our parents. I took care of my own things."

"I learned new words because I met new friends from different parts of the country," added Leslie Atienza, 12, of Crisanto Guysaco Memorial Elementary School in Nagcarlan, Laguna.

Getting a better understanding of chemistry, learning about other cultures and making new friends. It was indeed a memorable experience, one that the participants pledged they would treasure and share with others.

THE tribe works together to make the best futuristic gadget with straws, popsicle sticks, cans and bottles. RANDY HORMILLOSA


TOY WORLD
Harry Potter AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
Cast a spell of magical fun
The Whomping Willow Play Set
Wizard Sweets Hermione and Harry
• Chamber of Secrets Trivia Game
• Diagon Alley Board Game
Basilisk Attack Play Set
Projector Torch
Cast-a-Spell Ron
Harry Potter Mini Lamp
3D Pencil Holder
Slime Chamber Play Set
3D Picture Frame
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO